

Assad, Lebanese opposition confer

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Sunday discussed latest developments in the Lebanon crisis with Lebanese opposition leaders, opposition sources said. Sources close to Lebanon's "National Salvation Front" said Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" movement, and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and his deputy Marwan Hamadeh, were present at the meeting, which was also attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam. They said the opposition leaders had earlier discussed the political and military situation in Lebanon and efforts towards resolving the crisis, following the collapse of an eight-point peace plan which had been accepted by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

Grenade wounds two in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli soldier and a Lebanese civilian were wounded Sunday when a grenade was thrown at an Israeli patrol in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon, local residents and Israeli officials said. Residents said Israeli troops damaged a bank and two cars when they opened fire after the grenade, thrown by unknown attackers, exploded a few metres from the patrol in the city centre.

Ali to brief Numeiri on Mubarak's talks

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali Sunday left here for Khartoum to brief Sudanese President Jafar Numeiri on President Hosni Mubarak's recent visits to Washington and Paris. Senior presidential aide Osama Baz told reporters Mr. Ali was carrying a message from Mr. Mubarak to the Sudanese leader on the outcome of the visits, which included talks with King Hussein, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and French President Francois Mitterrand, but gave no details.

Rabat sends message to OAU chairman

RABAT (R) — Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhak Tazi flew to Addis Ababa Sunday saying he would deliver a message from King Hassan II to Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Diplomats in Rabat said Morocco was concerned about possible participation in a forthcoming meeting of the OAU council of ministers in Addis Ababa by the Polisario Front, which is fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara.

Bombs hit N. Ireland

ROSTREVER, Northern Ireland (AP) — In the third bomb attack in two days, an explosion Saturday night destroyed a garage in Rostrevor, a few kilometres from the border with the Irish Republic, police said Sunday. No injuries were reported. A police spokesman said that a 30-minute warning was received from an anonymous caller before the bomb went off. A second bomb was defused by a British army bomb disposal expert. Two bombs exploded Saturday morning at a carpet shop near Belfast following a bomb attack Friday night at a shopping district in Newry in County Down, just eight kilometres north of Rostrevor. No one was injured.

Bomb scare on Air France

GENEVA (AP) — An Air France Boeing 727 made an unscheduled landing Sunday at Geneva's Cointrin airport after the airline received an anonymous threat that a bomb was aboard the Venice to Paris flight, airline officials said Sunday. The 26 passengers were taken from the plane but no bomb was found by police and it continued on to Paris without incident after a three-hour-20-minute delay, the spokesman said.

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Israeli planes bomb Lebanese militia bases

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli planes Sunday bombed Lebanese positions held by opposition militiamen on the coastal road to the south and in Syrian-held territories in the mountains overlooking Beirut and central Lebanon.

State-run and privately-owned Lebanese radio stations listed six villages up to 15 kilometres east of Beirut that had been the target of two consecutive air raids each of which lasted about 20 minutes. The bombardments began at 2:45 p.m. (1245 GMT) when four Israeli fighter jets bombed military positions in Naameh and Damour, 18 and 20 kilometres along the coast south of Beirut.

The planes then flew on to Lebanon's central mountains for a 20-minute strike on targets in Syrian-held territory. The Israeli jets returned a few minutes after the first raid for more bombing runs on the same targets east and south of Beirut, radio stations reported.

The radio said four Israeli warplanes were diving from the clear skies to attack their targets while eight others circled in the air for cover.

The radios said Syrian anti-aircraft batteries, 20 kilometres northeast of Beirut, opened up at the attacking aircraft but missed their targets.

The mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) "Voice of the Mountain" radio and the "Voice of Lebanon" station run by rival Falangists reported that Israeli jets struck Hammama and Bhamdoun, in the mountains east of Beirut.

Both radios also reported attacks around Damour and Naameh.

In Tel Aviv, the military command said "terrorist command posts" in Bhamdoun and Hammama used as jump-off points for attacks on Israeli troops in South Lebanon were attacked.

The Israelis frequently use the word "terrorist" to mean Pal-

estinians, but reporters who went to Naameh saw no Palestinians. Those who have been covering the fighting along the coast also have not seen Palestinian units, though Israel has claimed that hundreds of Palestinians are involved.

3 killed, 19 wounded

Police sources quoted early reports as saying three people were killed and 19 wounded in the raids, but they noted this included only casualties in two of the bombed villages, Naameh and Damour, and they expected the toll to go higher.

A large building used as a lumberyard at Naameh was set ablaze in the bombing and, an hour later, flames and clouds of black smoke poured from the structure.

Fighters of the Shi'ite Muslim militia "Amal" said about 15 members of Amal and their PSP allies were in the building at the time of the attack. A PSP militiaman said about 10 civilians were taken away in ambulances, and one woman showed up at the U.S. Marine base about six kilometres north asking for treatment for injuries suffered in the air raid.

Sunday's air strikes were the fourth carried out this year against targets in Lebanon and the third time that Israeli planes attacked Bhamdoun, 15 kilometres southeast of Beirut on the Beirut-Damascus highway.

The raids also were the first major Israeli military move in Lebanon since Amal and PSP militiamen pushed Lebanese army troops out of their positions south of Beirut last Tuesday in a major offensive against President Amin Gemayel's government.

Israel's army has sent frequent armoured patrols up the coastal north of its Awali River front line in a show of force.

On Saturday, an armoured Israeli patrol probed above Israeli lines in southern Lebanon, stopping just short of Damour, which is now held by opposition militias. (PSP fighters rest on the southern front, page 2)

The town lies in a large swathe of territory linking Beirut with the Shouf mountains southeast of the city captured from the Lebanese army by PSP and Shi'ite fighters last week.

U.S. officials privately admit failure in Lebanon, page 2

Italians begin MNF pullout as 'green line' battle rages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Italy's contingent of the Multi-National Force (MNF) began pulling out Sunday, and heavy clashes between the Lebanese army and opposition militias were reported along Beirut's "green line" and in the central mountains.

An Italian spokesman said 260 vehicles, including some armoured personnel carriers, were moved from Beirut's port to two Italian warships offshore.

The spokesman, who asked not to be named, said one Italian warship was wounded by sniper fire during the operation.

He said only 15 men from the 1,400-man Italian contingent had left Sunday, but he added that all the Italians except about 100, would be leaving Monday.

"The role of the contingent is over," he said.

Two Italian merchant "roll-on-roll-off" ships, the Genoa-registered Jolly Arancione and the Venice-registered Anglia Express, took aboard the Italian equipment at Beirut port and later set sail, reporters at the port said.

Other light equipment was ferried out to the transport ship Caelo by landing craft from a west Beirut beach near one of the Italian bases.

The Italian withdrawal will be most keenly felt by thousands of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila camps where hundreds of people were massacred by right-wing militiamen in September, 1982, before the MNF arrived.

The Italians set up guard posts around the camps, established a popular tented hospital in the area and provided facilities such as clean water for residents.

Administration of the hospital was handed over Sunday to the

higher Shi'ite Muslim Council, the top Shi'ite religious organisation. Earlier, government-run Beirut Radio said that 400 Italian soldiers had left Sunday and the 100 staying behind would be guarding the Italian field hospital. The Italian spokesman, however, denied those remaining would be guarding the hospital.

The remaining soldiers would eventually leave after completing details involved in the departure of the main force, the spokesman said.

Three hundred of the soldiers boarding ships on Monday would remain on the craft off the Lebanese coast for a time, while the others would sail immediately to Italy, the spokesman said.

As their withdrawal began, clashes went on in and around Beirut between warring loyalist and rebel factions with little immediate prospect of a political solution to end the fighting.

West Beirut was taken over last week by the Shi'ite "Amal" and mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militiamen after fierce clashes with the army.

On Sunday, both state radio and the rightist "Voice of Lebanon" station reported exchanges of rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machinegun fire ending at dawn along the "green line", the ruined strip of buildings that divides the city into mainly Muslim and predominantly Christian sectors.

The radios also reported night-long clashes in the central mountains around the town of Aley, Kaifun and Aitah, and the Lebanese army's last mountain stronghold at Souk Al Gharb, southeast of Beirut.

The sound of shells, rockets and machine-gun fire echoed across

the city. Security officials said four civilians were killed and 12 wounded when shells crashed into a densely-populated area just west of the "green line".

The fighting followed the collapse of the latest peace attempt Saturday when Syria confirmed it had rejected a Saudi Arabian-sponsored settlement plan and insisted on Lebanon scrapping a troop withdrawal treaty with Israel.

Political efforts

State-run television said key negotiator Rafiq Al Hariri, a Lebanese-born Saudi-based businessman, flew to Saudi Arabia from Damascus Saturday night, not to Lebanon as previously reported, to pursue peace efforts.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said Syria has agreed on fresh proposals to put to President Amin Gemayel.

But Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has made clear Damascus would reject anything allowing Israeli security concessions in southern Lebanon, which both an Israeli-Lebanese accord signed last May and a peace plan accepted by Mr. Gemayel included.

Mr. Gemayel's National Security Adviser Wadie Haddad left for Washington Sunday, television reported. The U.S. helped negotiate the Lebanese-Israeli accord and has given full backing to Mr. Gemayel, whom PSP and Muslim leaders want removed from office.

Opposition sources said Amal leader Nabih Berri had left Beirut for Damascus with Marwan Hamadeh and Khaled Junblatt, top aides to PSP leader Walid Junblatt who is already in the Syrian capital.

U.N. force likely to replace Beirut MNF, page 4

'Reagan kept secret contact with Arafat'

NEW YORK (AP) — For a nine-month period, beginning in the summer of 1981, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration conducted secret discussions through an intermediary with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The report, quoting American participants in the discussions, said the talks were aimed at persuading Mr. Arafat to accept the right of Israel to exist in exchange for U.S. recognition of the PLO.

The PLO broke off the discussions, with no certain sign that they were successful, in June 1982 after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Times identified the intermediary as John Edwin Vrooz, a

specialist on Middle Eastern and Soviet affairs, and said he acted on authorisation from then-U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Mr. Vrooz, 35, currently president of the Institute for East-West Security Studies in New York, was director of Middle East studies at the International Peace Academy in New York when he began the mission.

The United States policy towards the PLO since 1975 has hinged on the promise to Israel that it would not recognise or negotiate with the Palestinian group until it acknowledged Israel's right to exist.

Officials have said, however, that the 1975 statement does not rule out contacts that would be limited to trying to get fulfillment of the conditions, the Times said.

Mr. Reagan's predecessor, Jimmy Carter, established a brief dialogue with the PLO through Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

The Times said Mr. Arafat suggested the secret talks with the Reagan administration and that Mr. Haig asked Mr. Vrooz to act as an intermediary after first winning Mr. Reagan's approval.

From August 1981 to May 1982, Mr. Vrooz had more than 50 meetings with Mr. Arafat, totalling more than 400 hours, the Times said.

There has been no public disclosure of any American-authorised contacts with the PLO during the Reagan administration except in the context of the PLO's withdrawal from Lebanon in the summer of 1982.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receives returned to Amman Sunday after visits to the U.S. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor who and Britain (Petra photo)

Hussein, Noor return home

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned to Amman Sunday following visits to the United States where King Hussein underwent medical check-ups that revealed he was in perfect health, and the United Kingdom where the King held talks with British leaders.

While in the United States King Hussein accepted President Reagan's invitation to visit Washington where the two leaders held talks and later held a joint meeting with Egyptian President

Hosni Mubarak. In his meeting with the American president King Hussein focused his talks on the Palestinian problem as the crux in the Middle East issue and stressed the need for finding a just and honourable solution to the problem. On his way home, King Hussein stopped in London where he held talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Middle East developments. Upon arrival in Amman the King and the Queen were met by His Highness Prince Mohammad.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, members of the royal family, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat, cabinet members and senior officials as well as Britain's Ambassador to Jordan Alan Urwick and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

The King's motorcade passed through Amman streets that were bedecked with flags, decorative signs and posters welcoming the King and voicing the people's rejoicing at his being in perfect health and renewing allegiance to the throne.

Fresh fighting erupts in Gulf war

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Sunday its forces had inflicted further heavy losses on Iranian troops in the central sector of the Gulf war front.

A high command communique said Iraqi troops supported by helicopter gunships had mounted successful attacks on the remnants of the Iranian force which launched a midnight offensive south of the Iranian border town of Mehran last Wednesday night.

The Iraqis had suffered heavy casualties and lost large amounts of equipment, it said. An Iraqi communique Saturday spoke of thousands of Iranian dead littering the battlefield.

The communique said all the Iraqi helicopters had returned safely to base. Iran claimed earlier it had shot down two.

Fierce fighting was still raging south of Mehran, the Iranian news agency reported Sunday.

Iraq has cautiously welcomed a statement from Iran that it would stop retaliatory strikes against Iraqi towns which Baghdad said had killed 93 people and injured 260 in a four-day period.

An Iraqi military spokesman called for international observers to guarantee commitments not to shell civilian areas in the 40-month-old Gulf war.

The chief of the Iranian joint staff, Brigadier-General Qassemi Zahir Nejad, said Sunday night Iran would stop retaliatory strikes against Iraqi targets for the time being, but would hit back if Iraq attacked Iranian towns.

Before the Tehran announcement, a Baghdad military spokesman had said Iraq would resume attacks on selected targets in Iran on Monday after a one-week suspension.

The Iraqi spokesman said: "The

Iranian announcement is considered a victory for our political and military line and humanitarian characteristics."

Despite our commitment to our announcement on Feb. 14 to stop shelling Iranian towns, we strongly confirm the necessity that the principle of avoiding attacks on civilian targets must be put under international observation," he said.

He added that if Iran's rulers were serious, "their acceptance of international observation would be natural."

Both Iraq and Iran, have agreed to accept a new U.N. fact-finding mission to inspect damage in the Gulf war. The mission is expected to leave for Baghdad and Tehran in the coming week. But Tehran has ruled out any political talk with the mission.

Earlier story on page 2

28 Salvador soldiers die in air collision

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Two U.S.-built helicopters collided in El Salvador Sunday killing all 28 Salvadoran troops aboard, military spokesmen said.

They said the two Bell UH-1H "Huey" helicopters collided between the villages of San Gerardo and San Luis de la Reina. They were deploying soldiers in the embattled eastern province of San Miguel, where some 2,000 troops are involved in an anti-guerrilla drive.

The cause of the collision, the worst in the four-year-old civil war, was not immediately clear. It was not known if the helicopters were under fire.

Truck blockades create havoc on French roads

PARIS (AP) — Independent truckers, whose blockades have crushed traffic in the French Alps for four days, extended their protest across the country Sunday with convoys of tractor-trailers creating backups from the Atlantic coast to the Mediterranean and along the French frontiers.

Police said one person was killed and five others injured in three separate overnight accidents attributed directly to the truckers' strike.

Thousands of frustrated vacationers remained stranded throughout the Alps, either crowded into emergency shelters and unable to reach area ski resorts or prevented from leaving them and returning home.

Police reported sporadic fist fights between tourists and truckers. In Saint Jean de Maurienne, an enraged motorist tore the door off a blocking truck while other motorists ringed the driver and shouted insults.

Police in the Alpine towns of Sallanches and Cluses near the Swiss and Italian borders deflected tyros on six trucks to prevent them from blocking additional roads.

More than a thousand riot police and army troops were deployed in the French Alps. But authorities clearly were hoping to avoid violent confrontations, and police generally kept their distance from the truckers.

The blockade which began Friday in protest against a slowdown by customs agents at the Italian frontier, have turned into a major test of strength with France's socialist government.

The two main truckers' associations representing France's country's 32,000 owner-operators and small fleet owners are demanding immediate negotiations on demands for reduced fuel taxes, amended border crossing procedures and relaxed safety regulations.

The government says it will not bargain until traffic returns to normal. Police say that, even after the blockade is lifted, it will take at least two days to clear the Alpine roads of thousands of cars abandoned by tourists who sought emergency shelter from the sub-freezing weather or tried to make it to hotels and ski lodges on foot.

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Gulf fighting eases ahead of U.N. mission's arrival

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran and Iraq appeared to have reined in their troops Sunday after a week of bitter fighting, as they prepared to receive a United Nations mission expected later this week to assess damage to civilian areas.

Neither side reported violations of pledges to halt bombardment of civilian targets, after a week of air, missile and artillery attacks which left hundreds of civilian dead and wounded on both sides of the border.

Iran said Saturday night it would stop retaliatory strikes against Iraqi towns and Baghdad, which suspended air and missile attacks for a week last Monday, responded by calling for international observers to monitor the situation.

A statement by Iranian chief of staff, Brigadier-General Qassemi Zahir-Nejad, said Iran would hit back if Iraq resumed attacks on Iranian civilian areas.

But a military spokesman in Baghdad appeared to signal that

Iraq would not carry out its threat to resume air and missile strikes Monday at the end of the one-week suspension.

"We strongly confirm the necessity that the principle of avoiding attacks on civilian targets must be put under international observation," he said.

Iraq sparked off the deadly round of tit-for-tat air raids and shelling with a missile strike eight days ago on the Iranian city of Dezful, but suspended attacks two days later in response to appeals by a Paris-based Iranian opposition leader.

The Iraqi spokesman said 93 people had been killed and 260 wounded in Iranian air raids and artillery bombardments between Feb. 14 and 18. Iran reported over

100 dead and 400 wounded in Iraqi attacks.

Both sides have agreed to accept a new U.N. mission to inspect damage in civilian areas. But Iran dashed any hopes of a mediation attempt by saying it would not hold political talks with the group.

There was no fresh word from either side on fighting in the central sector of the battlefield, which appeared to have died down Saturday after two days of bitter engagements.

Iran said Saturday it had achieved its goals, driving Iraqi troops out of an area of Iran south of the border town of Mehran which they had held since the start of the 40-month-old war and capturing high ground on the Iraqi side of the border.

It said over 2,000 Iraqi troops had been killed or wounded since it launched the offensive at midnight last Wednesday.

But Iraq said its counter-attacks and helicopter gunship assaults had broken the offensive, leaving thousands of Iranian dead.



An elderly Lebanese refugee crosses the Awali River bridge north of Sidon where an estimated 6,000 civilians have crossed into Israeli occupied Lebanon to escape from the fighting further north (AP wirephoto)

U.S. officials privately admit failure in Lebanon

By R. Gregory Nokes
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Officials of President Ronald Reagan's administration, while publicly holding out hope that all is not lost in Lebanon, admit privately that U.S. policies there have failed and that America must now concentrate on minimizing its losses.

Mr. Reagan has downplayed the importance of Lebanon since the Lebanese army was routed by Syrian-backed militias and the administration decided to withdraw the 1,600 Marines in the Multinational Force.

Mr. Reagan said Friday it was "unfair" for critics to claim that U.S. efforts to negotiate peace in Lebanon have collapsed.

"Lebanon's troubles are just a part of the overall problem in the Middle East and her internal strife has only made it worse," Mr. Reagan said.

But on Oct. 24, Mr. Reagan had painted the scene in more apocalyptic terms: "If Lebanon ends up under the tyranny of forces hostile to the West, not only will our strategic position in the Eastern Mediterranean be threatened, but also the stability of the entire Middle East, including the vast resource areas of the Arabian peninsula."

American forces suffered 265 dead during their 17-month stay for a mission that polls showed most Americans never understood.

Secretary of State George Shultz — the administration official most involved in shaping U.S. policy in Lebanon — was in the

Bahamas on vacation Friday when Syria rejected a peace plan that may have represented the last hope of American-backed President Amin Gemayel.

At least one of Mr. Shultz's senior State Department colleagues was reportedly shocked that Mr. Shultz would leave Washington "while Lebanon was going to hell." Other officials said Mr. Shultz was tired and needed the rest.

Still another official said Mr. Shultz appeared to be "washing his hands" of Lebanon, disappointed that his recommendations to maintain the American military presence in Lebanon had been overruled.

Administration officials said privately that His Majesty King Hussein and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, who met with Mr. Reagan last week, were upset the administration had ignored the broader Middle East peace while focusing on Lebanon. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Reagan reaffirmed his commitment to his Sept. 1, 1982 peace initiative, which has been stalled since last spring. But there wasn't any new strategy for moving it along.

The latest hope in Lebanon was that an eight-point peace plan purportedly put forward by Saudi Arabia could save Mr. Gemayel. While the administration said the plan was exclusively a Saudi initiative — an assertion that the Saudi government has since denied — it was clear it had received Washington's quiet blessing.

Officials confirmed that an American helicopter was used to transport the peace plan from the Presidential Palace near Beirut.

where Mr. Gemayel signed it Wednesday, to Cyprus where it was delivered to a Saudi representative, Rafik Hariri, who helped carry it to Damascus for talks with Syrian leaders.

Each of six State Department officials contacted by the Associated Press acknowledged American policy had failed in Lebanon — but all refused to be quoted by name.

Middle East specialists at Washington research organizations agreed with that view.

"It is a serious diplomatic defeat," said Robert Hunter of the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies, who served in the Carter administration. "Our credibility is very seriously jeopardized."

He said the administration's "cardinal error" was negotiating a troop withdrawal agreement between Israel and Lebanon without including Syria and then expecting Syria to cooperate by withdrawing its own troops. Syria didn't cooperate, dooming the accord.

Another mistake, he said, was in not pushing Mr. Gemayel to open his government to greater representation from Lebanon's Muslim groups, especially the Shi'ite and Druze, whose militias finally defeated Mr. Gemayel's U.S.-trained army.

William Quandt of the Brookings Institution, who has worked as a consultant to administrations of former President Jimmy Carter as well as Mr. Reagan, charged that Washington hadn't offered the military commitment needed to achieve its objectives in Lebanon — especially after the Israelis withdrew their troops.

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PSP fighters rest on the southern front

By G.G. Labelle
Associated Press

KFAR HIM, Lebanon — The World War I-style trenches that the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia holds on a mountain top near here are a little like the grand boulevard — like Paris' Champs Elysees — of Middle East warfare.

It's said someone seated at a sidewalk cafe on the Paris boulevard will eventually see everyone he knows in the world. Here, it seems, all the various enemies in the Lebanese catastrophe — along with their backers or arms suppliers — somehow make their presence felt.

PSP militiamen point out the Soviet-made T-54 tanks they got from Syria and the American-made ammunition that they fire from the tank cannons. They are vague about where they got the shells, labelled with both English and Hebrew letters.

At one point, two U.S. Navy F-14 interceptors streaked overhead as the USS New Jersey made a slow turn in the Mediterranean off the village of Damour along the coast below.

"We were shelled near here by the New Jersey," said a bearded PSP fighter. It's not always possible to tell which of several American ships — if any — have shelled various areas. But it has become fashionable to claim to have withstood shelling by the world's only active battleship, whose 41 centimetre guns are the largest aloft.

The bearded PSP fighter was pointing out the coastal road where Israeli tanks often drive north of their defence line at the Awali River and the positions held along the next ridge by the Falange militia, which is the enemy of the PSP.

Suddenly shells whizzed overhead and reporters, photographers and fighters hit the dirt.

"The Phalangis just wanted to tell you they are still here," the PSP fighter said, smiling.

In the village of Kfar Him, about 21 kilometres south of Beirut and 15 kilometres north of the Awali, the PSP fighters gather in coffee or sandwich shops when they are not at the front.

Some wear the uniforms worn by U.S. Marines, indicating they might be defectors from the Lebanese army, which has Marine-like camouflage fatigues. At least one of the PSP fighters wore an olive drab uniform similar to those supplied to some Falangist militiamen by Israel.

While the Israelis have at times equipped and financed the Fal-

ange militia, they also have backed the PSP in Lebanon. Druze who live in Israel are the only Arab allowed to serve in the Israeli army.

One of the PSP fighters produced a wad of Israeli shekels but would not say where he got them. Another showed his Venezuelan passport, but said that though born in Venezuela, he was a Druze and had come to Lebanon a year ago to fight.

Outside of a sandwich shop, a young Druze asked a group of American reporters, "who do you suppose the Israelis will give this area to — U.S. or the Falangists?"

North of Kfar Him, at Kabr Khmoun, is a crossroad from which one can reach Beirut or any of the string of mountain villages where the PSP has been fighting the Falangists and the Lebanese army — Kaifoun, Aitah, Souk Al Gharb, Abey, Binayy.

Reporters stood for more than an hour and watched hundreds of militia fighters coming from or going to the various fronts. While both Falangists and Israelis have claimed hundreds of Palestinians are involved in the fighting, no Palestinian flags or symbols were seen, and longtime reporters in Lebanon said they saw only one or two uniforms men who might have been Palestinians.

Secretary of State George Shultz — the administration official most involved in shaping U.S. policy in Lebanon — was in the

of the evil of terrorism which haunts the world today.

Mr. Hunt, who was based in Rome, was shot in the head as he chauffeured car pulled up to the gate of his home.

An anonymous caller to a Milan radio station claimed responsibility for the shooting in the name of the Fighting Communist Party, an offshoot of the Red Bri-

gades group that kidnapped U.S. General James Dozier in 1981.

Mr. Dam said Mr. Hunt's death "should inspire us to rededicate ourselves to building a more peaceful world in which hatred and violence has no place."

Mr. Hunt's funeral will be held in nearby Alexandria, Virginia, on Tuesday, a State Department spokesman said.

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Arab Gulf states alarmed over increasing drug use

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Growing use of narcotics by the young in the Arab Gulf states is alarming officials, who blame the problem on contact with the outside world.

Tougher penalties for drug users, smugglers and dealers are among a variety of measures recently introduced to counter a menace which officials say has surfaced only recently in their Muslim societies.

A Bahrain television series on drugs blamed growing signs of disintegrating family ties and trips by young people to Europe and North America for the problem.

But a senior Gulf-based Western expert says: "It is a problem of too much money available to young people."

Officials in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain see the influx of Asian labour into the Gulf as primarily responsible for the rise in drug abuse.

A Bahraini senior drug-enforcement official said on television that arrivals from "contaminated areas" — an apparent reference to countries such as Pakistan, India and Thailand — were thoroughly searched.

Despite co-operation between

the Gulf states, smugglers were making deliberate stopovers en route there hoping to deceive officials about their original departure points, he added.

The drug problem has brought the impact of foreign labour on Islamic values and local customs under close study.

Dr. Ali Matar, head of Bahrain's Drug Rehabilitation Centre, says the employment of non-Muslim nannies was partly responsible for what he described as un-Islamic upbringing of children which could lead to drug abuse in adolescence.

He said employment of non-Muslim nannies in Bahrain had grown parallel with a 12-fold increase in the number of working women in the 10 years up to 1981 to 12,000 out of a total 52,000 workforce.

Kuwait, where drug smugglers now can face life imprisonment, held some 500 drug users and 120 peddlars in jail in 1982 while the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms, has 231 people in jail for drug offences.

UAE officials also say glue sniffing is becoming prevalent among schoolchildren and school staff and parents have been put on the alert.

Qatar's gas reserves to last more than a century

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Qatar's reserves of natural gas have been officially estimated at 100 trillion cubic feet, enough for local consumption and exports of more than a century, a senior government official said Saturday.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman Ibn Jabr Al Thani told the Qatar News Agency that the country's income from gas sales "will amount to more than one billion dollars annually."

He said that as of 1990 the country would rely more on gas exports and less on crude oil sales for its steady revenues.

Projects underway and others currently being studied will increase Qatar's reliance on gas for its industries which, the sheikh said, includes iron and steel, petrochemicals and others.

Two years ago, industry sources estimated Qatar's reserves of natural gas at 300 trillion cubic feet, or the equivalent of 51.8 billion barrels of crude oil. No explanation was immediately available for the drop in the estimate of gas reserves, which has been estimated by the 10-nation Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as well as above the figure revealed by Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

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Qatar's gas reserves,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hassan visits oil site

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday visited an oil exploration site to the north of Amman and inspected the progress of work on the project. Prince Hassan was accompanied by National Resources Authority (NRA) Director-General Yousef Al Nimri and senior NRA officials.

UAE president cables Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received a cable from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan in reply to a cable of condolences sent to Sheikh Zayed on the recent assassination of the UAE ambassador in Paris. "The way of cruelty and terrorism will shake our stand towards Arab cause," said Sheikh Zayed.

University chief's term extended

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday renewing Dr. Adnan Badran's term as president of Yarmouk University for another four years. The decree takes effect from February 21. Dr. Badran has been president of the university since 1976.

One dead in gas explosion

MADABA (J.T.) — One person died and five others were injured in a fire that occurred in the town of Umm Al Basatin in the district of Madaba. The fire, which broke out in the home of Madahi Uqail, was caused by a gas leakage which exploded engulfing the house in fire. His 17-year old son, Bassam was killed, while his wife, and the rest of the children were rushed to hospital for treatment.

Belbeisi to attend olive tree body

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meeting of the technical committee studying olive trees which is scheduled to open in Madrid on February 28. Jordan will be represented at the three-day meeting by the director of agricultural research at the Ministry of Agriculture, Osama Al Belbeisi, who will submit a working paper on growing olive trees in Jordan. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives from Mediterranean countries.

UNICEF office to move to Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Sunday gave its consent to a request from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to transfer its regional office from Beirut to Amman. UNICEF will base its office in Amman for two years at least after which it will examine the prospect of establishing the office here on a permanent basis.

AGFS to help introduce phosphates in Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab German Friendship Society (AGFS) will hold a seminar in Bonn on Feb. 24 on the prospects of marketing Jordanian phosphates in West Germany.

A society spokesman said that the prospect of using phosphates as a raw material in the German chemical industry will be scrutinised by the participants, mostly German chemical specialists.

Jordan's ambassador to West Germany Fawaz Sharaf is expected to open the seminar which will be attended by the director-general of the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company, Wasef Azar.

A AGFS representative from Bonn has arrived in Amman to discuss the arrangement of the seminar and will hold talks with Jordanian officials, the spokesman said.

National Geographic magazine portfolio chronicles Jordan almost to perfection

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the winter of 1983, American photo-journalist Jodi Cobb came to Jordan with the difficult task of catching through the lens of her camera the very essence of the country for the readers of the National Geographic magazine. The article, due out this month, has not reached Jordan yet but if the exhibition of her work entitled "Jordan: A Portfolio" now showing at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel is anything to go by, she will have made a near perfect job of it. It is a fact and one that never ceases to impress that genuinely interested people coming from outside a country are often able, in the space of a few short weeks (Cobb was here for 16) to get to the heart of things, their distance and objectivity helping them to see things so much more clearly than those who live there, embroiled and enmeshed as they so often are in it all. But to take photographs like the ones Cobb has taken, requires more than just that — it also requires a deep and subtle sensitivity.

ART REVIEW

Cobb has caught Jordan in many of its one thousand and one facets and like Alladin, after he escaped from the genie's cave, she reveals them one by one. With a remarkable insight Cobb has penetrated deep into the hearts and feelings of the people, catching them with a respect and affection often spiced with humour. She has understood what is essentially and uniquely Jordanian and has managed not only capture this sometimes very abstract notion on film, but has also managed to add to it her own very personal and individual way of seeing things. All that without mentioning Cobb's technical ability which is at times awe-inspiring.

Perhaps one of the best shots illustrating Cobb's original approach is the marvellous photograph of the girls at the uni-

versity so involved in hearing the latest piece of "hot" news that they fail to notice the camera lens trained on them. Then at the other extreme — from total unawareness to almost posing — is the lovely jostling line of Circassian schoolboys feeling self-conscious and more than a little important in the perfect of their national costume. The humour continues in the lively shot of the snowman dressed like his water friends outside the familiar and so typical sweetmeat shop where the goods are stacked ceiling high in neat pyramids. Then there is the photograph of the front of the truck — brightly painted and befeathered full of happy occupants. The list continues — the baby at Baqa'a camp, the bustling, excited activity in the ranks of graduating students waiting for their big moment, the Special Forces fearlessly plummeting over some precipitous hazard, the portrait of Sa'adeh Tal serene and grand in the timeless beauty of her home, the Jordan Valley glowing in a dramatic evening light, the pristine planes of the Royal Falcons whose plumes of vapour diffuse into the mist surrounding the stunning crags that populate Wadi Rum ... and many more.

Also opening last week (this time at the Marriott) was an exhibition of the paintings of Father Bizdikian. Based in Italy, where he is the artistic director of the Printing House of the Armenian Vekhtarian Order, Bizdikian has exhibited his work many times before in Europe. This however is the first time he has exhibited in the Middle East to which he is linked by family ties. Although now mostly an abstract artist, Bizdikian was for many years a re-



Iraqi director-general of police, Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq Abdul Aziz, is shown around the crime laboratory here Sunday as part of his visit to Jordan (Petra photo).

Jordan, Iraq discuss police affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Co-operation between Jordan and Iraq in police affairs was discussed at a meeting here Sunday between the director-general of police in Iraq, Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq Abdul Aziz, and Lt.-Gen. Vahid Idris, director of the Public Security Department (PSD).

The talks held at the PSD headquarters were attended by aides from both sides.

The visiting Iraqi delegation was briefed on the department's programmes and watched a documentary film on the various duties and activities of the police force.

Later, the delegation was taken on a visit to the Police Science Academy and the Women's Police Department where its members were briefed in detail on the duties and training programmes in progress.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq said that the visit offered a chance for the delegation to look at the experiences of Jordan's police as well as the social conditions prevailing

in Jordan.

Ministers Council and heads of police departments and is also designed to further strengthen co-operation between Jordan and Iraq in police affairs, he said.

Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq said that he will extend an invitation to Lt.-Gen. Idris to visit Iraq for more discussions.

"Our aim is to step up co-operation on ways to combat crime and develop police work in both countries", Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq said.

Poor rainfall threatens cereal crops

AMMAN (J.T.) — This year's poor rainfall will have a very bad effect on the country's agricultural production which will in turn adversely reflect on animal husbandry and livestock in Jordan, according to Dr. Marwan Kamal, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan.

He said that the areas most affected are cereals, which depend on rain rather than on irrigation. Already, he said, many farmers have not sown the amount of seeds they would have done as they have been waiting for the rain to come.

Therefore Jordan is expected to have a relatively poor harvest this summer, he concluded.

Those who sowed earlier in the season should expect a much smaller crop than was harvested last year, Dr. Kamal pointed out.

Dr. Kamal also expects Jordan to import almost double the amount of cereals it purchased during the past year although its stores still have 110,000 tonnes of grain in reserve. Nevertheless, he said, the high rate of purchasing will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on the national economy.

Fruit trees

The poor rainfall will, however, have a lesser effect on fruit trees, especially those growing in areas that have received 250mm of rain-water so far, he said. Trees planted this season should be irrigated regularly if they are to live and flourish, Dr. Kamal pointed out.

Also according to Dr. Kamal, the drop in the water level of the lake behind the King Talal Dam will affect agriculture throughout the Jordan Valley region.

He said that last year's rain caused the lake to overflow its walls but that this year the lake is not anywhere near filled yet, and if no more rain falls this season, summer vegetables like melons will

also be affected, he said.

In general, more rain this season will not improve the cereal crop situation, but it will no doubt help to salvage summer crop levels, Dr. Kamal concluded.

Amman nominees rise to 39

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Governor Yahya Al Mousili announced Sunday that the nomination of candidates for the March 12 elections has been going on smoothly.

Mr. Mousili said that no violation of election laws or regulations set by the Ministry of Interior for the running of campaigns has been reported.

Monday is the last day for nominating candidates for the by-elections while on Sunday another candidate was nominated for the Amman constituency raising to 39 the total number of candidates for the one seat available in this constituency so far.

Body seeks to co-ordinate Arab industry

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee charged with co-ordinating industrial affairs among Arab states opened a four-day meeting in Amman Sunday.

The committee, set up by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), represents Arab ministries of economy and industry.

CAEU's economic affairs director, Mohammed Al Sharif, opened the meeting with a speech in which he underlined the importance of the subjects to be discussed and their connection with Arab economic development.

Mr. Sharif outlined CAEU's programmes aimed at achieving Arab industrial integration and promoting industrial related sectors in the Arab countries.

CAEU officials said that the participants will discuss ways of bolstering Arab industrial co-operation and will review CAEU's programmes to develop industrial sector, in the Arab World.

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Delegation meets Abdul Jaber, Mahmoud

Ministers brief U.N. team on Israeli practices

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations resolutions on Palestinians living in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's practices directed against the Arab population there were at the centre of talks between a visiting U.N. team and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud here Sunday.

The three-man team, headed by Dudley Madaella, heard from Mr. Mahmoud details of the adverse effects of Israeli settlements on the Arab population and their economic, social, educational and health conditions.

The Israeli occupation authorities are pursuing their policies of confiscating Arab land from the inhabitants and setting up settlements whose residents constantly harass and attack the Arab population, the minister said at the meeting.

Mr. Mahmoud pointed out the

dangers inherent in Israel's policy of applying Israeli law on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Israelis have recently set up a special committee to implement these policies and to apply Israeli laws to Arab lands not people which means that Israeli settlers living there will benefit from public services and not the indigenous population, he explained.

The minister said that the measure is designed as a first step towards tightening the noose around the Arab inhabitants neck and forcing them to emigrate.

The U.N. team, which will report its findings to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, also Sunday met Labour Minister Yasser Abdul Jaber who presented them with a report on the consequences of Israel's policies on Arab employment opportunities and their adverse effects on the Arab population in the occupied Arab lands.

Dr. Abdul Jaber spoke about Israel's settlements and Arab lands which had been expropriated by the Israelis who impose arbitrary measures on the local population to force them to abandon their homeland.

The team's visit has been organised by the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements.

Its members, who arrived here Saturday, will leave for the U.N. headquarters on Feb. 23.

Keilani: Aqaba sewerage scheme over half complete

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority in Jordan (W.A.J.) is currently implementing a JD 5.4 million sewerage project in Aqaba, according to W.A.J. Director Vahid Idris.

He said that the project, which started in February last year, is being carried out in three stages and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Mr. Keilani said that the first stage of the project entails extending the existing main sewer network by adding 20 kilometre of plastic pipes that best suit the climate in Aqaba.

The second part of the project entails the building of a special station to pump sewage from the system's three kilometre branch network of pipes to the main pipe channelling it to the wastewater treatment plant, he said.

The third phase, Mr. Keilani said, entails the construction of a wastewater treatment plant which will depend largely on solar energy to work it.



Mohammad Keilani

This plant is to be built to the east of the city and will be connected to Aqaba by asphalted roads. The plant will be able to handle nearly 4,000 cubic metres of sewage daily, Mr. Keilani said.

So far nearly 70 per cent of the sewer system, 60 per cent of the pumping station, and 50 per cent of the plant have been completed, Mr. Keilani added.

Finland boosts its UNRWA contribution

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finland has increased its annual contribution for 1984 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) by about 18 per cent over its 1983 donation.

Finland recently presented UNRWA with a cheque in the amount of \$369,872 for the 1984 budget year. In 1983, Finland gave \$315,516 to UNRWA.

Including the 1984 contribution, Finland has given UNRWA a total of \$4,189,904 since the agency began operations in 1950.

UNRWA provides education, health and welfare services to those eligible among the 1.9 million Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ink printing show to open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of paintings by the Jordanian artist Saleh Abu Shindi, 46, will be inaugurated under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali at the Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition will include 50 paintings depicting Jordanian folklore and humanitarian subjects.

The artist told the Jordan Times that he uses ink printing as his main medium. Mr. Abu Shindi said that he then adds slight touches of oil colour on his ink paintings, developing a combination which "makes you wonder and ask how the painting was executed".

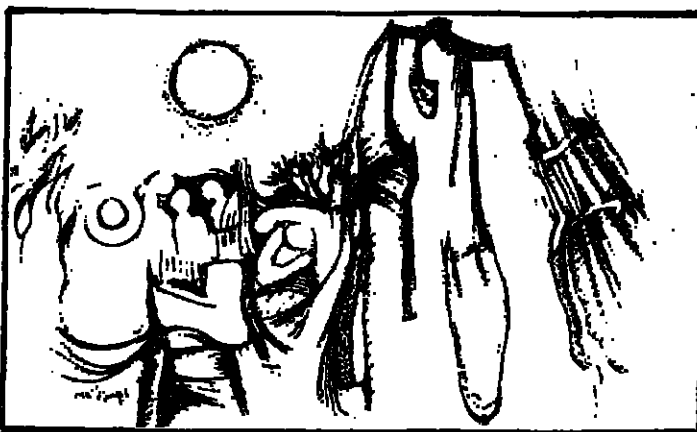
The paintings give the feeling of a "strong structure with a carefully studied colour scheme" the artist said. Mr. Abu Shindi started painting in 1953 and has participated in many group exhibitions in Jordan and other countries.

He held his first one-man show

in 1971 at the British Council in Amman and then continued at group exhibitions until 1983 when he held his second one-man show at Yarmouk University.

Mr. Abu Shindi is currently a lecturer in art at the Arts Department at Yarmouk University.

The exhibition will run until Feb. 28.



One of the exhibits drawn in ink by Saleh Abu Shindi which will be on display from today (J.T. file photo).



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1984/5

KINDERGARTEN

The school's new kindergarten will open in September 1984. There will be two sections, one for children aged not less than 3 years 8 months on 1 September, and one for children aged not less than 4 years 8 months on 1 September.

GCE 'A' LEVELS

From September 1984 the school will offer a two-year full-time course for senior students leading to GCE 'A' level examinations in June 1986. Subjects offered are:

Arabic
English Literature
French
Mathematics
Art

Physics
Chemistry
Biology
Geography
History

Applicants should

*Either have, or expect to have by September, five good passes at GCE 'O' level, one of which should be English Language

*Or show evidence of high academic achievement in their previous school, including a high level of English.

NEW STUDENTS, GRADES 1-10

Applications are now being accepted from students who wish to join the school in any grade in September 1984.

REGISTRATION

Application forms for all sections of the school are available from the school office. The closing date for applications is 29 February 1984.

Further information may be obtained from the school office, telephone: 845572.

Jordan Times

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Not a matter of choice

WE really feel that there is no need for Jordan to maintain diplomatic relations with the Libyan regime after all that has happened to our embassy in Tripoli. With the burning of the Jordanian embassy building there on Saturday, the Libyans have explicitly displayed their hostility towards Jordan and its people, and we believe that the time has come to reciprocate by considering the closure of the Libyan mission in Amman, and also take other necessary measures that we see fit for safeguarding our diplomats in other countries.

The Libyans have had the intention to perpetrate other crimes against Jordan, among other Arab countries, according to their former ambassador in Amman. And there is no doubt that they have, directly or indirectly, blessed assassination attempts on our diplomats in Rome, Spain, India and other parts of the world.

Saturday's despicable act against our mission in Tripoli was a criminal action directed against the Jordanian government and people, and whatever pretexts and excuses the Libyan regime might have tried to come up with, it could never absolve itself of the responsibility for the attack.

We are indeed saddened to see Arabs at the threats of one another instead of directing their weapons and energies against the common enemy, and we are indeed appalled to see an Arab regime degrading itself to the level of common criminals in either recruiting or training or blessing terrorist squads to carry out criminal actions to serve their masters' selfish interests.

The arson in Tripoli was designed to deepen Arab differences and cause further splits in Arab ranks. Nevertheless, Jordan will not be shaken by such dastard actions and it will not abandon its national commitments, no matter what the costs are.

Severing diplomatic ties with the Libyan regime is a step that has to be considered seriously in view of the rising situation, and isolating the Libyan regime is another measure that we can strive for to safeguard the interests of this country and its people.

How else does one deal with fanatics?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Dastardly, criminal act

THE CRIMINAL attack on Jordan's embassy in Tripoli illustrates Libya's bankruptcy, both moral and political. It is an official Libyan government crime perpetrated and carried out by government agents and terrorists in violation of all norms and values. It is regrettable indeed to see the Libyan government falling to the shameful level of organised crime in assuming the role of the criminal rather than the protector in relation to foreign diplomatic missions. A government which respects itself and its people and is keen to safeguard its values and reputation should shoulder its responsibility in defending foreign missions which are considered guests in its country rather than perpetrating arson against them.

Those regimes which recruit assassins and criminals to launch such crimes and dastardly actions can never be true defenders of the Arab causes as they claim to be, because defending national interests and Arab citizens is something honourable, and burning embassies and attacking ambassadors is criminal. Jordan however by no means considers this action as reflecting the feelings and morals of the Libyan people. It is the sole responsibility of the regime which should never be allowed to build walls to separate peoples of the same nation.

Al Dustour: Unswayed by heinous crimes

THE LIBYAN attack on Jordan's embassy in Tripoli is a shameful act and is a blatant violation of all principles and thus showing a total disregard for all values and honour. Libya's resorting to arson and assassination of diplomats is a degrading action that places the Libyan regime on the same level as common criminals whose actions should be condemned by all societies everywhere. In Jordan we do not commit such disgraceful and deplorable actions and we feel that such bad behaviour should never dissuade us from upholding our honourable morals and adhering to our ethics.

The cowardly attack on the Jordanian embassy Saturday can never weaken Jordan's determination and will never shake its people's profound conviction that conspirators who plan criminal actions against their own nation are bound to face frustration and that their plots are doomed to failure. We can hardly find proper words to describe the perpetrators of this crime but we are sure that the Libyan people can pass judgment on this handful of stray rulers. We are certain that our will and determination will not falter nor will we ever give in to attacks or threats.

Sawt Al Shaab: A record of crime

THE ATTACK on Jordan's embassy Saturday is a political indicator as to the degrading level of the Libyan rulers. This Libyan action represents an outrageous attack on Jordan and an attempt by Libya's rulers to impose their will and way of thinking on other Arab countries. Libya's record is full of crimes and conspiracies which it has hatched in turn against Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. There is no moral deterrent whatsoever that can stop Libya and its rulers from committing criminal actions against their nation and Arab citizens anywhere in the world.

Their plots tend further to divide Arabs and cause wider splits among their ranks so that the Israeli enemy can benefit from it. Libya's organised campaign of terrorism and assassinations throughout the Arab World reflects Tripoli's criminal political orientation which is intent on destroying Arab solidarity and weakening Arab states. Jordan will not be dissuaded from its national duties and will continue to honour its commitments and shoulder its responsibilities despite the conspiracies and intimidations.

U.N. troops likely to replace the MNF

By Anthony Goodman
Reuter

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations would most likely be able to draw on a 5,600-man unit called UNIFIL stationed in southern Lebanon for nearly six years, should the Security Council decide to replace the multinational force in Beirut with U.N. troops.

Such a possibility was raised when the council this week began debating a French proposal to send a U.N. peace-keeping force to the Lebanese capital. If the proposal is approved — and this is by no means certain —

U.N. troops would replace contingents from the United States, France, Italy and Britain sent to Beirut independently of the United Nations in September 1982.

UNIFIL, which stands for United Nations Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon, was set up in 1978 following a large-scale Israeli incursion against Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas operating in southern Lebanon.

Its mandate, never fully implemented, was to oversee a withdrawal of the Israeli troops and help restore the authority of the Lebanese government in the unsettled region.

The U.N. force was brushed aside when Israeli troops again

invaded in 1982 and swept towards Beirut.

But it still operates in the same area, maintaining an uneasy co-existence in some places with Israeli forces and local Lebanese militias backed by Israel.

Commanded by Lieutenant-General William Callaghan of the Irish Army, UNIFIL at present comprises infantry battalions from Fiji (614 men), Finland (500), France (610), Ghana (510), Ireland (645), Netherlands (156), Norway (643) and Senegal (547).

In addition, logistics units are provided by France (776 men), Italy (42), Norway (203), and Sweden (142), while the head-

quarters camp command at Naqoura, on the Lebanon-Israel border overlooking the Mediterranean, is manned by 135 soldiers from Ghana and 88 from Ireland, according to latest figures.

UNIFIL's current six-month mandate comes up for renewal by the Security Council on April 19.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a report when the Security Council last gave its approval that the force's area of operations was generally quiet and that the local population had increased as a result of an influx of refugees from the fighting further north.

He said UNIFIL continued to

operate check-points and to send out patrols "with a view to contributing to the maintenance of order and ensuring the security of the local population."

The U.N. troops also co-operated with the Lebanese authorities and various U.N. agencies in providing humanitarian assistance to the local inhabitants.

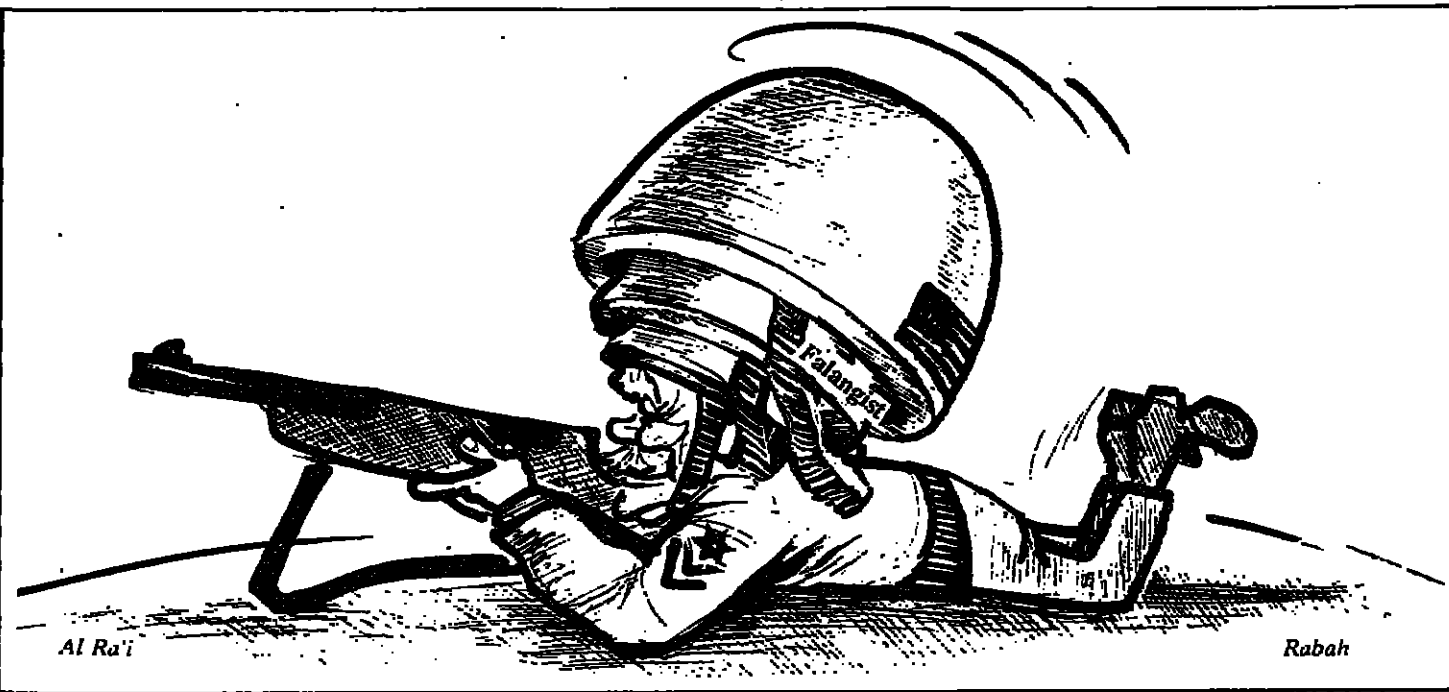
A Swedish army medical company and the medical teams of the various infantry battalions treat thousands of Lebanese civilians, often calling on the services of a helicopter wing operated by the small Italian contingent.

UNIFIL's French engineer company is often called in to clear

mines, shells and other explosives.

The U.N. force is assisted by several dozen military observers from the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), set up in 1949 to monitor the armistice agreements concluded that year between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

When the secretary-general last recommended an extension of UNIFIL's mandate, he said withdrawal of the force from its area of operations would be a "serious blow to the prospect of restoring the authority of the Lebanese government in southern Lebanon as well as to the security and welfare of the local population."



Algiers becomes an oasis of calm

By Francis Ghiles

WEDGED between Tunisia and Morocco, both recently torn by violent riots, Algeria appears an ocean of stability. President Chadli Benjedid, who has just won a second five-year mandate, is liked and respected by his countrymen, who affectionately call him "Jeff Chandler" because of his white mane.

During his first term as president, Mr. Chadli has not adopted the high international profile of Mr. Houari Boumedienne, his predecessor, and has avoided lecturing the world on North-South issues. The rhetoric of revolution has given way to more rounded language and to the type of behind-the-scenes diplomacy which resulted in the release of the U.S. hostages in Iran.

At home, where the president spends most of his time, economic policy has been re-assessed. More emphasis has been laid on meeting the social and housing needs of the 22m population rather than pouring money into heavy industry. Private entrepreneurs, outcasts in Mr. Boumedienne's time, are now being encouraged so long as their activities do not endanger the state sector. Life is brighter in a country which suffered a bitter war of liberation against France and great austerity during the 1960s and 1970s. The cities have been cleaned, apartment blocks painted and new private shops and restaurants are open. The power of the security forces has been curtailed.

President Chadli has slowly, quietly and effectively con-

solidated his power base since 1979. Many of the barons of the Boumedienne era, such as Mr. Abdelaziz Boufelfla, the former minister of foreign affairs and Mr. Belaid Abdul Salam, the economic overlord for over a decade, have now gone.

Senior military regional commanders have also been retired and younger officers appointed, but the army remains loyal and a guarantor of peace. The long war of liberation means that a form of osmosis still exists between the army and society. Many Algerian officials fought as guerrillas with the Front de Liberation National, still the ruling party, and retain close personal links with senior officers. The younger officer corps is very professional.

But when senior officers such as Mr. Sellim Saadi, the minister of industry decided to switch to a civilian career they eschew their title and uniform and concentrate on getting on with the job.

President Chadli's new team points towards peaceful continuity. His new prime minister, Mr. Abdul Hamid Brahimi, has been minister of planning since 1979 and instrumental in seeing through the economic changes.

The team also includes some people, who held high rank under Mr. Boumedienne, and did not fall into disgrace after 1979: Mr. Teieb Ibrahim, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammed Hadj Yala, the minister of the interior. Others are rising fast, such as the Minister of Information, Bachir Rouis and the Minister of Planning Ali Oubouzar.

Those who have been cast aside, especially in the major state companies, are a grievous loss, however. They fought in the war of independence and built the industrial base of the new Algeria in daunting circumstances. It will be impossible to equal their faith and energy, whatever mistakes they may have made.

Equally important for stability in the long term has been the way Mr. Chadli has handled the Muslim fundamentalists and those seeking greater expression of Berber identity. Until autumn 1982, security officials appeared to be treating fundamentalist groups, which had been very active at the University of Algiers and Constantine, with kid gloves.

But following a hold-up 15 months ago in a military barracks at Cape Djinet, east of Algiers, the full weight of the security apparatus fell on the fundamentalist group and a number of trials followed.

The Berber problem, which provoked very serious trouble in Tizi Ouzou, the Kabyle heartland, in 1980, has been quiescent since the authorities allowed television programmes about the Berbers to appear and gave more weight to the country's historical tradition.

During the FLN party conference a month ago, for instance, President Chadli told the 5,000 delegates that Algerian history went back before the Arab invasion: Arab values were all very well, but the country's identity was shaped when the Berber King Massinissa opposed the Romans, 2,200 years ago. The Berbers, who refer to themselves as Ama-

zighs or free men formed the true basis of Algeria's people, he said. Such a speech would have been inconceivable five years ago.

Mr. Chadli's rule has been consolidated by other factors: thanks to the gamble in developing natural gas a decade ago, Algeria's oil and gas income has been steady since 1982 — it brought in \$12.7 billion last year.

On the foreign front, the rapprochement with France has so far been to Algeria's benefit. Relations with Tunisia have improved considerably, while those with Morocco are less icy, despite the total lack of progress on the Western Sahara issue.

After the years of feverish international diplomacy of the 1970s, the past five years may appear less exciting, even somewhat dull. But reining in foreign debt, putting the economic house in order and trying to ensure less wasteful management are essential if Algeria is to face the challenges of a fast-growing population, poorly-managed agricultural resources and a lower income from oil and gas.

As the U.S. hostage crisis four years ago underlined, Algerian diplomats are capable of pulling off remarkable coups. The country's voice is heard more often than either its oil wealth or its population warrant. President Chadli can look forward to a second term which will present many challenges, but in the knowledge that Algeria has at least an even chance of meeting them, something which most of his Arab peers cannot do. — Financial Times.

U.S. foreign policy slants human rights

By Louis Rene Beres

LAFAYETTE, Indiana — There is something terribly wrong with U.S. foreign policy. Failing to recognise that human rights lie at the heart of the American political experience, foreign policy is shaped only by the desolate requirements of anti-Sovietism. As a result Washington has created a kaleidoscope of shame that mocks America's heritage.

Curiously, the sterile perspective of the Kissinger commission offers only more of the same. Although fitted with the trappings of moral and intellectual authority, the commission's report exhibits neither compassion nor thought. It offers only the ritualised warnings of the Cold War — a stream of incantations blaming all global misfortune on the manoeuvres of an "evil empire."

With this view of human rights, the policies of the United States prove their own futility. The Reagan administration contends that its approach to world affairs is pragmatic, but these policies are in fact hopelessly utopian. They are the product of incapacity or unwillingness to learn from the lessons of the past. It follows that these policies will fail.

Isn't it apparent from the persistent failures of prior U.S. policies that repressive client regimes will soon collapse and that realism requires tolerance of revolution? Isn't it clear that during the next several years one after another of U.S.-supported oligarchies will be eclipsed? Isn't it obvious that each successor government will join an expanding legion of anti-American states?

Reason is crushed by "realpolitik." Although Soviet behaviour in world affairs hardly meets the test of "goodness," the Reagan administration's childlike vision of a contest between light and darkness is a lethal caricature. This dualism has led America away from its interests and its ideals at the same time. Indeed, by generating alliances with regimes beholden to Nazi war criminals it has created an inscrutable perverse rejection of what Americans hold dear.

To change direction while there is still time, U.S. leaders need only begin to act on the Declaration of Independence — a document that sets limits on the authority of any government. Since justice according to the founding fathers must bind all human society, the rights articulated by the Declaration cannot be reserved only

for North Americans. They must extend to all human societies — including those of Central America.

On Oct. 19, 1981, President Reagan told 60,000 celebrators of the American victory at Yorktown in 1781 that the battle against the British "was won by and for all who cherish the timeless and universal rights of man." The president's address went on to affirm that the United States is "a beacon of freedom" shining on other nations whose citizens are deprived of human rights.

Yet Mr. Reagan accepts the Kissinger report, a self-declared endorsement of violence and privilege that ties U.S. hopes to the grim clichés of superpower competition.

With the Kissinger report the United States rejects the idea of justice for revolution. If certain powerful nations had actively taken this position in 1776 there would never have been a United States of America. It is time to act, according to the unchanging ideals of the American republic.

In so doing, the United States would begin to support the binding obligations of international law. Since the end of World War II these obligations require states to endow all human beings with a measure of dignity — obligations that cannot be overridden by the presumed requirements of geopolitics.

From America's point of view, the Nuremberg obligations are doubly binding. They represent not only current expectations of international law but also the doctrinal foundations of the United States itself. By their codification of the principle that fundamental human rights are not a negotiable commodity of power politics but a firm postulate of the international community, Nuremberg obligations represent a point of perfect convergence between the law of nations and America's own best ideals.

America should take steps to approach human rights as valuable and important in themselves. There can be no more realistic policy. As George Washington recognised in his first inaugural address: "The foundations of our national policy must be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality."

The writer is a professor of political science and international law at Purdue University. He contributed this column to the Los Angeles Times.

A storm over Swiss politics

The failure of left-winger Dr. Lilian Uchtenhagen to become Switzerland's first woman minister has upset the country's legendary political stability. John Wicks reports.

ZURICH — The fate of one of the world's longest-lasting coalition governments is in jeopardy this month. After having belonged to the Swiss government for over 24 years without interruption, the Social Democratic Party (SP) is considering whether it wishes to go into opposition.

The party leadership, and especially the left, have been chafing for some time under the responsibilities of being in government. But the immediate cause for Socialist soul-searching lies in last December's elections to the Federal Council, the Swiss Cabinet, when its female, left-wing candidate was rejected.

The Council's seven members are elected by a joint vote of the two Houses of Parliament, which, as usual since 1959, elected two Social Democrats, two Radical Democrats, two Christian Democrats and one member of the Swiss People's Party (SVP).

The SP is upset because the right-of-centre parliament rejected its official candidate, Dr. Lilian Uchtenhagen, who was proposed to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Willy Ritschard, the late finance minister.

Dr. Uchtenhagen, who would have been the first woman minister in Swiss history, was warmly supported by the party chairman, Dr. Helmut Hubacher, and many

of his more left-wing colleagues. It is by no means uncommon for official candidates to lose elections. Neither Mr. Ritschard nor Mr. Hans-Peter Tschudi, two of the SP's most popular ministers, were on the official ticket, for instance. But in December, Dr. Hubacher took the unusual step of making it clear that Dr. Uchtenhagen alone would be "acceptable" to the SP.

Her failure to get in must have been due to a combination of causes. Many members of the parliament shied away from backing a woman. But what is believed really to have cost her job was the rejection by the anti-Socialist majority of her left-wing views. The parliament voted instead for a right-wing SP member, Dr. Otto Stich, who has taken up the reins of the Finance Ministry.

The election sparked off a great deal of long-standing resentment, particularly on the left wing of the SP, against what is felt to be the Socialists' weak position in government. Although the foreign and finance department are key ministries, their ministers are bound by the "collegiate principle" by which the cabinet speaks with a single voice.

Since five of the seven Federal councillors are far from being Socialists, this means a constant compromising of the true

faith. The left has for years called for a move into opposition so that the party can "save its soul".

At the same time, Dr. Hubacher admits frankly that taking part in the government has been less profitable for the SP since the end of the economic boom in the mid-1970s.

While the economy was growing, the Federal Council was receptive to Socialist plans to develop a welfare state. Now that budget deficits have become a main pre-occupation, Dr. Hubacher argues that there is nothing much to be gained from being in government.

The SP's chances in the 1987 general elections would also be better, he thinks if the party were in opposition than if it remained in the coalition.

The outcome of the dispute is unclear. On the one hand, the SP executive has already voted by a large majority to go into opposition and Mr. Stich has promised to give up his post if called upon to do so. But a majority of the parliamentary party has spoken in favour of staying in the Federal Council, as have SP members of Cantonal governments and the country's trade union federation.

The matter is complicated because it may be referred to a vote among all party members. According to opinion polls, a considerable majority of SP members and sympathisers is in favour of staying in government. — Financial Times news feature.

Wolves make it risky for Iranians

By Hugh Carnegie
Reuter

VAN, Turkey — "At about two or three a.m. we ran into some wolves — the smuggler I was with recognised fresh tracks... I was very, very scared," said the young Iranian who was smuggled out of his country across the border with Turkey.

He told the story as he relaxed with a cigarette in the safety of a Turkish hotel.

Despite the hair-raising nature of his encounters with Iranian Revolutionary Guards, hours of walking and riding through snow-swept mountains with Kurdish smugglers and arrest by Turkish police, his story is not uncommon. Since the Iranian Revolution of 1979, thousands of religious dissidents, supporters of the deposed Shah's regime, opponents of the war with Iraq and many others have chosen to flee Iran through Turkey.

Diplomats in Ankara estimate that more than 200 a month are still coming across the border and they say several thousand are resident in Turkey, mostly in Istanbul. Thousands more have managed to go on to the United States and Europe.

According to escapees waiting in van for permission to travel to Istanbul, and beyond if they have the right documents and money, the escape route begins in Tehran or other Iranian cities where the

smugglers have links.

They say Turkey is the preferred route because the 500 kilometre frontier is wild and largely uninhabited by Kurds traditionally hostile to both Ankara and Tehran, making it hard for both sides to police.

"It was easier to leave through the Pakistan border up to four or five months ago, but now it's much more heavily guarded because of drug smuggling," said the man who encountered wolves.

Like all escapees interviewed, he declined to be identified. He said the smugglers charge the equivalent of up to \$5,000 a person to take someone across the frontier. Passports and usually half the fee are handed over in advance and the escapee gets instructions to meet in a border town such as Khvoy.

At this stage the danger is to be stopped by the Pasdars (Revolutionary Guards). "I was stopped, but because I was married and they thought my wife was still in Tehran, I was allowed free," he said.

A second young man interrupted. "I was caught by the Pasdars with a friend. I was stripped and beaten up. They kept me for two weeks but as I didn't have a passport or money I eventually persuaded them I was not escaping," he said.

The first man continued: "At Khvoy (the smugglers) passed me over to other people and we wal-

ked three or four hours to a Kurdish village. Some people have to walk as long as 18 hours.

"They were waiting for me with a horse. They gave me dinner. Then, with three Kurdish smugglers, it took us about eight hours to get a Kurdish village in Turkey. There they told me they would take me to van."

He described travelling by car, but having to skirt military roadblocks on foot while the car drove on. On one such occasion they met the wolves.

"I said to the smuggler 'what shall we do?' He said 'if there is only one we'll be OK'. He was more scared of the soldiers. He kept telling me to be silent."

The wolves left them alone, but they were eventually caught by the military police. "They beat the smugglers up a bit, but they were very polite to me," he said.

Like most escapees, he was taken to van where small hotels are full of Iranians waiting for permission to travel. Many are well-off young men who leave to escape joining the army, some are Jews or Bahais and others are political opponents of Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic regime.

Whole families sometimes escape together.

Usually they wait about a month in van before getting permission to travel by bus to Istanbul where either they receive residence permits or can travel on to other countries.

The world is no 'safer place' after the Pershings

Following is the last interview with the late Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, in which he elaborated on the Soviet stance on East-West relations.

Q: The contentions that nothing alarming is happening in the international situation and that in general the world has become "a safer place" in the present conditions have been put into circulation lately in leading quarters of the United States and NATO. Is that really so?

A: There are no grounds for such a conclusion. The main cause of the state of dangerous tension in the world, of which I have already had occasion to speak, have not been removed. Has Europe acquired greater security with the commencement of the deployment of American missiles? Of course not. The nuclear danger has grown. This is not only our estimation. This is clearly indicated by the acute alarm felt by millions of people in Europe. Nor have the American missiles in Europe strengthened the security of the United States itself. By setting itself the aim of tipping the military balance in its own favour, the United States has compelled us to take countermeasures.

The appearance of American missiles in Europe has increased not only the military but also the political tension. The talks on the limitation and substantial reduction of nuclear weapons have been wrecked. Interstate relations have fallen into a field of dangerous tension.

The whole responsibility for this turn of events rests with the leaders of the United States, the American administration. Responsibility must also be borne by the governments of NATO countries which, contrary to the will of their own peoples, have made their territory available for the American missiles.

And has the world become a safer place now that in the Middle East American soldiers have joined the Israeli aggressor in fighting against the Arabs, and United States warships and aircraft are reducing Lebanese towns and settlements to ruins?

The situation is extremely tense in Central America where the United States administration is encroaching on the independence of sovereign states. Those who contend that "nothing dangerous" is happening in the world apparently want to erase from people's memory the U.S. aggression against Grenada. For it is clear that the United States wants to smash the people's power and return by force of arms the hated dictators, the stooges of the United States. In the White House all this is usually termed a "struggle for human rights." Anything more cynical is hard to imagine.

Imperialist brigandage is being perpetrated in other areas of the world too. Such is the real situation. It is acute and dangerous. It must not be underestimated.

So, one might ask, for what purpose is the present situation in the world being deliberately distorted in the statements of American leaders? First of all to try to dispel the daily mounting concern of the peoples over Washington's militaristic policy, and to undercut the growing resistance to this policy.

That people everywhere are more conscious of the danger to peace and whence it is emanating is a fact of unquestionably great importance. The struggle of millions of people for peace is another objective reality of our time. Q: The President of the United States recently spoke in favour of a Soviet-American dialogue. In his speech it sounded as follows: "Strength and dialogue go hand in hand." What is your attitude to this?

A: There is no need to convince us of the usefulness and expediency of dialogue. This is our policy. However, the dialogue must be conducted on an equal footing, and not from a position of strength, as is proposed by Ronald Reagan. The dialogue should not be conducted for the sake of dialogue. It should be directed at the attainment of definite accords. It should be conducted honestly and no attempt should be made to use it for selfish aims.

The American leadership — such as all the indications — has not renounced its intention to conduct talks with us from a position of strength, from a position of threats and pressure. We totally reject such an approach. And in general, attempts to use "power diplomacy" in relation to us are futile.

Our attitude to the idea of conducting talks for the sake of talks is exactly the same. Regrettably we have already encountered such an approach on the part of the present U.S. administration. I would like to recall the Geneva talks on European medium-range nuclear arms. It is an open secret now that for almost two years the representatives of the United States in Geneva beat the air, so to speak. In the meantime, preparations went on in Washington for the practical deployment of new strike nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

We issued warnings time and again about what all this would lead to. The American side with its own hands broke up the talks in Geneva and inflicted much damage to the dialogue between the USSR and the United States. Now the president of the United States claims that the U.S. is ready to resume the talks, to return to Geneva.

The question arises: Does this perhaps mean that the American side has realised what it has done and, desiring a dialogue, is pre-

pared to change its negative approach? No, this has not happened. The president's speech contains not a single new idea, no new proposals either on the issue of limiting nuclear arms in Europe or on other issues. There is no sign of this in the American position.

I have already said, and I would like to emphasise once more, that we are prepared to make use of any real chance of conducting talks which have the aim of reaching practical accords on the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms on the basis of the principles of equality and equal security. However, we will not agree to talks for the sake of talks, and we will not pretend that in Western Europe there are no new missiles targeted on us and our allies. Such a game is not for us.

At the same time I want to re-affirm that the Soviet Union is prepared to resolve the problem of nuclear arms in Europe only on a constructive, mutually acceptable basis. For this only one thing is needed: Before it is too late the United States and NATO should display readiness to return to the situation that existed before the deployment of the Pershing 2s and cruise missiles began. We are raising this question before the United States and its NATO allies because we want to avoid another spiral in the arms race, this time on a new, still more dangerous level, which would lead to a growth of tension and instability in Europe.

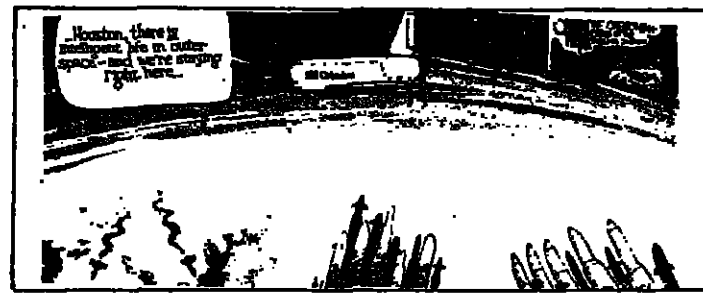
It is by practical deeds that we will judge whether the United States seriously intends to conduct a dialogue with us.

Q: What other problems could be discussed in the dialogue?

A: The Soviet leadership is convinced that there exist possibilities for a serious discussion of a number of problems, the solution of which would undoubtedly improve the situation in the world and make for better Soviet-American relations. We have put forward a wide range of definite proposals and initiatives aimed at strengthening peace and international security. They remain in force.

For instance, were the United States to assume an obligation, as the Soviet Union has done, not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, this would have a substantial influence on the international climate, on the atmosphere in our relations. What would this mean in practice? It would mean that the two biggest nuclear powers reject the use of nuclear weapons against each other. This means that there would be neither first nor subsequent nuclear strikes.

Were the NATO countries to agree to the proposal of the Warsaw Treaty states not to use armed force against each other, this too would considerably heighten the degree of trust in Europe and throughout the world. In practice this would mean that the opposing mil-



itary alliances renounce the use of force for the solution of any disputed issues that might arise. A broad vista for talks would be opened. Incidentally, quite a lot could be done in this respect by the conference which has just begun in Stockholm, the first stage of which is devoted precisely to the drafting of confidence- and security-building measures.

Solution of the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space is something that cannot be put off. Otherwise mankind will be confronted with a new threat on a scale that is even difficult to imagine. The new weapons systems that are being developed in the United States make this a perfectly real prospect. The Soviet Union has made definite pro-

posals on how to ward off the danger of the use of force from outer space and in outer space, and calls on the United States to start talks on this question without delay. Given readiness on the part of the West, it is possible to commence the practical solution of the issues under discussion at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe. We have long since placed our definite proposals on this score on the negotiating table. They offer a short cut to agreement, provided, of course, that there is mutual desire to reach such accord.

The wide range of measures we have advanced with a view to reducing the danger of war includes a proposal addressed to the United

States envisaging, as a beginning, a simple but effective enough step — a freeze on nuclear armaments. Effort should be stepped up towards the early achievement of agreement on the substantial limitation and radical reduction of these armaments. The people are entitled to expect the U.S. government to display common sense and realism on these questions.

What is needed first and foremost for the attainment of agreement on all these issues is the desire and political will on the part of the United States and other NATO countries. In turn this would create a favourable situation for tackling other questions as well, moving on from one to another. We see in this an earnest of success for the policy of preserving peace.

It is only advance along this road, and not reliance on force and not rhetoric, that can make the world in which we live a really safer place. We expect of the government of the United States of America practical deeds and readiness to opt precisely for that road. This will meet with an appropriate response from us. — Pravda Jan. 25, 1984.

Randa Habib's Corner

We want apples

I AM dreaming of an apple. I don't care whether it is green or red; what I want is a juicy apple hard with my teeth that would bite it. An apple that is round and shiny like the one I used to have with my lunch when I was a schoolgirl. And yet, I never thought that I would one day dream of apples. And this is what is happening to me, to my family, my friends and my acquaintances. We all dream day and night of apples and our dreams will not come true for some time.

There are no apples in Amman and there won't be for a long time yet. The reason? We used to import apples for seven million dinars every year and we should admit this is an impressive figure; and as the country is passing through a financial crisis, the government has decided to cut down the expenses by stopping the import of apples. On the other hand the government has decided to encourage the production of apples in Jordan, but according to experts it would take at least five years for the production to be sufficient. In the meantime, what are we to do? Deprive our children of a fruit rich in vitamins, one of the first they take, is unfortunate. We wonder whether a compromise could not have been found: A solution where half the quantity of apples previously imported would be allowed, or else, regarding the cut down of expenses, why haven't we started to limit other expenses that are more costly and less necessary. The examples are numerous in this concern.

Thatcher assailed for family business gains

By Nicholas Phythian
Reuter

LONDON — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is showing signs of irritation and opponents sense they may have found a chink in her armour as a political storm builds over the business interests of her 31-year-old son Mark.

Mrs. Thatcher has been buffeted in recent weeks by questions about a 1981 Middle East business deal involving her son but has vigorously denied any improper behaviour on her part or any conflict of interest.

The opposition Labour Party, humiliated in the general election last June by the "iron lady", is snapping at her heels and demanding a full explanation.

The row has been simmering since the Observer newspaper reported that Mrs. Thatcher had met her son in Oman in 1981 when she was on an official visit and he was lobbying for the British company Cementation International. The company subsequently won a £300 million sterling contract to build a university in Oman.

Mrs. Thatcher, using an analogy from cricket, told parliament that while in Oman she simply "batted for Britain". She refused to discuss the affair further saying the business interests of members of her family were none of parliament's business.

Labour parliamentarians res-

ponded by saying that although Mrs. Thatcher herself may well have acted properly she had a duty to give parliament a full explanation of what went on.

Labour's Parliamentary Affairs Spokesman Peter Shore wrote to Mrs. Thatcher asking if she knew of her son's interest at the time she met him in Oman.

A bristling Thatcher replied: "You accuse me of batting for a single firm in which a member of my own family had a direct financial interest... you did not produce a shred of evidence to support such a serious allegation."

Mrs. Thatcher said she did not mention Cementation or any other company in her talks with the Oman government and called for the withdrawal of the allegation.

After a bitter exchange of letters, Mr. Shore said Labour would pursue the matter until it received satisfaction.

Labour parliamentarian Brian Sedgemore has meanwhile submitted a motion saying Mrs. Thatcher's silence put her in contempt of parliament.

He has asked a committee on parliamentarians' interests to investigate the matter, saying that under the rules of parliament she should have declared an interest in relation to her son both in general and each time she answered question on the affair.

Although Labour is ready to acknowledge that Mrs. Thatcher did nothing improper, it believes she should have taken a firmer line

with her son when he arrived in Oman.

"When she found out he was there and why, the very least she should have done was to have told him to get lost," a party source said.

The row has thrust Mark Thatcher into the limelight for the first time since Algeria launched a desert search for him when he was missing for several days while driving in a car rally in 1982.

Some newspapers have also headlined a current romance with an American Texan millionaire's daughter, Karen Fortson.

In his only comment on the Cementation deal, he told the Sunday Times newspaper that he had indeed met his mother in Oman but said his part in the deal had been very small. He refused to disclose how much Cementation had paid him.

Mark Thatcher, who describes himself as basically someone who buys and sells things, said it was always going to be difficult to convince people that his business deals did not depend on his mother's position.

Although he lives at his mother's official residence, 10 Downing Street, he said he had been self-employed and responsible for his own destiny since before she won power in 1979.

"My responsibility is to her as my mother, not as prime minister. To me, that is peripheral," he added.

He dismissed as "utter crap" any suggestion that he might be

profiting from inside knowledge on Britain's negotiations with China over the future of Hong Kong.

He said he was chairman of two companies in the colony, one of which he described as a gold futures trading operation offering the man in the street "a gold position in the Hong Kong market, the London, New York or Chicago stock exchanges."

"We write an incredible amount of business. I mean 20, 30, 40 million dollars is not exceptional", he added.

But he said: "There is no way the Hong Kong lease negotiations can possibly affect the gold futures price in say Chicago."

Mark Thatcher is depicted in the British popular press as accident-prone and a bit pompous. "He is remarkably adroit at blundering backwards into the limelight," one commentator said.

In the past the press has dwelt on his motor racing exploits, highlighting not only his disappearance in the Sahara Desert but also a crash he had in the le mans 24-hours race.

His twin sister Carol, a journalist, and his father Denis, the other members of the Thatcher family, have avoided the spotlight more successfully.

Mrs. Thatcher's supporters dismiss the whole affair as a snide attempt to attack the prime minister through her son.

They point out that Cementation was the only British company bidding for the university



contract. But Mrs. Thatcher has come under increased criticism for her handling of the affair.

Some commentators say this is just another "banana skin" on which her administration has stepped since she won a second term of office last June.

They catalogue blunders and political misjudgment marking its handling of a range of issues from health care cuts to a planned ban on unions at a British spy centre.

Even the Times of London, traditional journal of the British establishment and in general a Thatcher supporter, says the fuss would have died had she been more forthcoming at the outset.

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Jordan to host 1st Arab Tae Kwan Do Championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan National Tae Kwan Do team will take part in the Asian Tae Kwan Do Championship which is due to be held between Nov. 22 and 24 in the Philippines. This was reported by Mr. Majed Mansour chairman of the Jordan Tae Kwan Do Federation who said that the federation will also host the first Arab Tae Kwan Do Championship in July.

The federation, he said, will organise a course for new Tae Kwan Do members from Feb. 19 to 23 and a refresher course for the old ones and will hold grading competitions for black-belt holders four times a year starting March 19 with the purpose of furthering their standards.

A local course for coaches will be held at the end of March under the supervision of an international team of coaches who took part in the last year's Copenhagen tournament.

Mr. Mansour said.

Mr. Mansour reported that the finals in the national Tae Kwan Do Championship will be held on Feb. 23-24 at the Sports Palace of Al Hussein Youth City in Amman. The finals will determine those who will represent Jordan in the Arab Tae Kwan Do Championship to be held in Amman. Mr. Mansour explained. The federation will also hold a course for Tae Kwan Do beginners in April, he added.

According to Mr. Mansour the federation board discussed with heads of Jordanian Tae Kwan Do clubs last Thursday a plan for 1983 and reviewed their activities in the past year.

Mr. Mansour also stated that the federation had discussed with the Japanese embassy here the prospects of inviting a Japanese karate specialist who is currently in Egypt to supervise the two training courses in Jordan. The federation also discussed with the embassy the prospect of inviting a Japanese coach to work as a karate advisor in Jordan for a whole year with the purpose of upgrading martial art sports in the country, Mr. Mansour said.

He added that the federation decided to participate in the Asian karate tournament which is due to be held in Saudi Arabia during December 1984.

Connors, Noah clash in final

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Top seeds Jimmy Connors and Yannick Noah were both extended to three sets in Saturday's semifinals of the \$255,000 La Quinta Classic Tennis Tournament.

Top-seeded Connors survived his toughest test of the tournament before defeating Jose Higueras of Spain 6-7, 6-0, 7-6 while Noah won a close contest with Jimmy Arias of the United States 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Connors lost the first set to Higueras, the defending champion, after an early service break and reaching three set points. The Spaniard broke Connors' service in the 10th game which went to deuce five times.

In the tiebreaker Higueras got

triple set points and won the first set with a forehand crosscourt shot that Connors had no chance reaching.

Higueras dropped behind 4-0 in the second set and chose to save himself for the decider.

Connors again had an early service break but Higueras battled back to force the decisive tiebreaker with a service break of his own in the ninth game.

After the three-hour 15-minute match, Connors said he had anticipated a prolonged duel.

"I know I'm going to have to stay back and hit a few more balls with him. If I go on anything less than a perfect approach shot like his, I'm in trouble," he said.

Arias, 19, who beat Noah in five

sets at the U.S. Open last September, started slowly as a result of a chronically ailing arm and the delay due to the long first match.

"The wait was the same for both of us, so I'm not complaining, but I did have trouble loosening up," he said.

The close-fought match hinged on three lone service breaks, one in each set.

Noah said: "I was nervous at the beginning. It's hard to play against him. He uses a lot of spin and it's difficult for me to control."

In the doubles semi-finals, Bernie Mitton of South Africa and American Butch Walts beat Americans Marty Davis and Chris Dunk 7-5, 6-4 and, in an all-American match, Scott Davis and Ferdi Taygan defeated Mike Leach and Jeff Turpin 6-3, 6-3.

Platini, Rossi on target as Juventus stays ahead

ROME (R) — European Footballer of the Year Michel Platini and Italian World Cup hero Paolo Rossi were both on target as Juventus stayed four points clear at the top of the Italian first division with a 3-0 win at AC Milan Sunday.

AC, down to 10 men from the third minute after striker Giuseppe Damiani was sent off for elbowing Antonio Cabrini, held Juventus until the 13th minute when Platini volleyed home his 15th goal of the season from a Rossi cross.

The Milanese staged a spirited fightback but Juventus broke out

of defence to deadly effect again when Rossi scored with an angled drive in the second half. Beniamino Vignola took the tally to three in the closing minutes.

Brazilian star Zico remained two goals ahead of Platini in the scorers' chart with a typical free-kick around the defensive wall in Udinese's 3-1 home win over Fiorentina.

Antonio Virdis put Udinese ahead against the Florentines, missing injured captain Giancarlo Antognoni, but the visitors equalised through Argentine Daniel Bertoni when goalkeeper Fausto Borin virtually dropped the ball at his feet.

Not for the first time this sea-

son, Zico then came to Udinese's rescue before Virdis sewed up the points when he added his second goal.

Champions Roma confirmed they are on the road to recovery with a 2-0 win at Genoa. Francesco Graziani scoring twice with headers, to retain second place on goal difference above Torino, 4-2 home winners over Avellino.

The Turin fans were silenced in the third minute when Avellino went ahead, but soon found their voices again when Franco Selvaggi scored twice in three minutes.

Argentine Patricio Hernandez made it 3-1 from the penalty spot and Austrian Walter Schachner added the fourth.

Mikkola wins Rothmans Rally

YORK, England (AP) — World Champion Hannu Mikkola of Finland swept to an easy victory Saturday in the Rothmans National Breakdown Rally, the first event of the six-race British Open Championship.

But his third successive victory in the opening race of the season was marred by the death of Icelandic driver Hafsteinn Hauksson.

Hauksson, a 28-year-old transport manager from Reykjavik and Iceland's only international rally driver, was in 12th position when his Ford Escort careered out of control in the middle of a dense forest in north Yorkshire.

The car, which Mikkola ironically drove to victory in the corresponding race in 1979, swerved off the track on a right-hand bend and crashed into a tree.

Hauksson was pronounced dead on arrival at Scarborough hospital. His Icelandic navigator, 35-year-old Birgir Haldorsen, suffered from shock but was otherwise unhurt.

A rally spokesman commented: "Accidents occur in rallying but this is the first time someone has died in Britain."

The accident happened during a high speed stage of the 679-mile (1,072-km), 27-hour rally in the middle of Dalby Forest, which covers thousands of acres and is full of narrow, winding country roads.

Hauksson, who placed 25th last year, had commented on the slippery conditions before setting out Saturday.

Mikkola, 41, led by almost one minute after the first day Friday and continued to dominate the race in his new lightweight, West German Audi Quattro.

At the finish in York, he was four and half minutes ahead of his nearest rival, Jimmy McRae.

Final placings: 1. Hannu Mikkola, Finland, Audi Quattro, 3 hours, 29 minutes, 51 seconds; 2. Jimmy McRae, Britain; Opel Manta, 3:34.39; 3. Russell Brookes, Britain, Opel Manta, 3:37.21.

Navratilova returns to action

EAST HANOVER, New Jersey (R) — Martina Navratilova ends a one-month break Monday when she takes on American Nancy Yeargin in an opening-round match in the \$150,000 U.S. Women's National Indoor Tennis Championships.

Navratilova, the top seed, had a 54-match winning streak snapped last month in Oakland, California, when she lost in a tournament final round to Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia.

The championships here will also mark the 1984 debut for Chris Evert Lloyd, the second seed. Evert Lloyd faces Beverly Mould of South Africa on Tuesday.

Jo Durie of Britain, the third seed, gets started when she goes against 15-year-old American Grace Kim.

Other first-round matches include fourth-seeded Andrea Temesvari of Hungary against Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria; fifth seed Bettina Bunge of West Germany against American Joanne Russell; sixth-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany against American Beth Herr; seventh seed Tracy Austin against fellow American Terry Holladay, and Bonnie Gadusek against defending champion Kim Shaefer in another all-American match.

Mahre twins underline U.S. alpine supremacy

SARAJEVO (R) — Phil and Steve Mahre scored a splendid men's slalom one-two Sunday leaving the United States top of the glamour alpine ski competition at the Winter Olympics.

World Cup champion Phil Mahre made amends for a lean season by rocketing from the bronze medal position to the gold on the second run. He overtook twin brother Steve, fastest in the opening

leg, on the way.

Frenchman Didier Bouvet, fifth after the first run, edged out Swede Jonas Nilsson for the bronze.

The Mahres' triumph left the Americans supreme in the mountains. It followed Bill Johnson's victory in the Blue Riband men's downhill and the gold-silver giant slalom sweep by Debbie Armstrong and Christian Cooper.

Moorcroft wins 10km road race

AUCKLAND (R) — David Moorcroft of England, the world 5000 metres record-holder, won a 10-km road race here Sunday.

Moorcroft, who is training in New Zealand during the southern hemisphere summer, was timed in 28 minutes 57 seconds.

Sunday's race was his first since he withdrew from last month's international track series because of illness.

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EC's new food assistance policies face testing year

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) is hoping to silence criticism that its food aid can damage Third World farming, hold back development, arrive late or even be inedible.

The 10-nation bloc, the world's biggest food donor after the United States, is trying to shift the emphasis of its food aid policies from simple handouts to schemes encouraging Third World farmers to grow more food.

Controversial new community guidelines on food aid have just come into force in a year when cash-starved developing states are likely to become even more dependent on food imports.

Keys to new policies include buying more Third World food to give to other developing states, increasing long-term food aid contracts and cutting political pressures over decisions on who gets what, officials said.

But Third World officials doubt the new moves signal big changes, saying the aid amounts to only a tiny fraction of what developing states need to fend off starvation and chronic malnutrition.

They say the sudden arrival of food aid — even though most is sold by governments rather than handed out — drives down local farm prices and discourages local farming.

Earlier this month, 64 African, Caribbean and Pacific states stressed at a meeting here that food aid should not come as simple handouts but should be linked to long-term development.

In 1983, the community's food aid was allocated to about 75 developing states, with the biggest shares going to Egypt and Bangladesh.

Last month the European Commission proposed 1984 handouts broadly in line with 1983 levels, including 1.1 million tonnes of cereals and smaller ton-

Brazilian gold boom could ease debt problem

BRASILIA (R) — Gold production is soaring in Brazil, bringing in much-needed revenue for the government and encouraging optimism that the country will ultimately be able to resolve its economic problems.

Brazil, the most indebted Third World nation, is struggling to deal with a crippling foreign debt of \$92 billion.

But one mining official said: "The solution lies under their feet. With Brazil one of the most mineral-rich countries in the world, all they've got to do is go out and dig it up."

Thousands of jobless Brazilians from the cities have already joined the gold rush to the backlands of Brazil where for the lucky, temporary hardships can be swiftly exchanged for riches.

Official production figures show twice as much gold was dug last year as in 1982, and the government estimates 75 tonnes will be produced in 1984, 50 per cent more than last year.

At current gold prices, this year's official production will be worth around \$1.4 billion, but government and mine companies agree perhaps half as much again is never recorded in the statistics.

Even discounting the undeclared production, Brazil will be the fourth largest gold producer in the world this year after South Africa, the Soviet Union and Canada.

Though some mining companies have been operating in the country for 150 years, more than 80 per cent of the gold is extracted

by individual prospectors. Or "Garimpeiros", operating in very poor conditions with primitive methods.

The biggest concentration of the estimated 250,000 prospectors in Brazil is in the Serra Pelada workings of northern Para state that straddles the lower reaches of the Amazon.

They have been drawn by a rich gold lode discovered in the rain forest by a prospector in 1981. Last year about 50,000 Garimpeiros descended into the huge hold out of the forest on rickety ladders to haul up the pay dirt in sacks.

Using primitive washing tables, they extracted nearly 14 tonnes of gold, more than Brazil's total production from mechanised mining.

The hardy, mud-caked Garimpeiros of Serra Pelada have resisted government attempts to take over the workings and employ modern methods.

Many mining companies feel the Brazilian government can ill-afford to add the vocal 50,000 prospectors to the pool of unemployed.

And even if the money was readily available to invest in modern mining equipment, shutting down Serra Pelada for up to two years during construction would severely dent the cash flow to the cen-

tral bank.

The government goes quite a long way to make the sale of gold to its agents an attractive proposition for the Garimpeiros.

The agents buy gold for cash at the prevailing world price without questioning its ownership or origin.

But still a lot of gold slips through the official net. The unregistered buyers have one great advantage — unlike government agents they do not file receipts, so the government cannot levy the tax that can erode up to 17 per cent of a freelance miner's profits.

In the frontier towns carved out of the jungle, complete security surveillance is impossible and gold is spirited out of the country along the tried and tested routes of cocaine smugglers.

Gold trade sources say light planes are used to fly the precious metal to Guyana or Paraguay, or couriers smuggle it out on international flights.

Once out of the country, the unofficial gold traders can readily convert their gold into the security of dollars, safe from creeping cruzeiro devaluation, tax inspectors and government restrictions on the export of hard currency.

Money abroad can be marketed at a premium to those few rich Brazilians who can afford foreign travel.

Meanwhile, the search goes on for another Serra Pelada.

With only a third of the country thoroughly prospected, the chances look reasonably good.

Polish economy picks up

WARSAW (Agencies) — Polish main statistical office released earlier this month data on the economic performance in 1983 showing that Poland has passed through the turning point of the downward economic slide.

For the first time since 1978, the national income generated was up by 4.5 per cent. The national income for distribution increased between 3 and 4 per cent.

Since 1979, Poland's national income was steadily shrinking, with the biggest drop noted during the socio-political crisis of 1980-1981. The decline as such was checked in 1982, and last year marked the beginning of upswing.

The fact that the economy is over the hump is further supported by the spread of the growth: Marketed production of socialist industry was up 6.7 per cent, the production of the mining industries up 2.3 per cent and manufacturing industries up 7.1 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have the ingenuity now to be able to plan a course of action whereby you see how to do those things which will be beneficial to your home and family.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Discuss business affairs with kin; you can improve the situation together. Adopt a different attitude with your family.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Listen to what partners have to suggest to become more efficient. Contact that person with whom you have worked before.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be sensible in expenditures so that you do not jeopardize your present monetary position. Take it easy.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Have more fun at recreations and take in more sports. Join good friends. Do not spend too much money.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Some favor for a family tie can bring fine results. Do not lose your temper or there will be real trouble.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Contact friends who can be of help to you. Plan the future more wisely. State your aims. Express your views. Eat regularly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Discuss affairs with a prominent person. Do your work efficiently. Do nothing that could get you into trouble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be alert for a chance to gain personal desires. Get rid of anxieties at the correct sources. Control your temper from now on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Meditate for a while, then follow your hunches. Have a quiet talk with your mate and come to a far better understanding.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Look to both friends and partners for assistance you need to gain your finest ambitions. Keep promises you have made.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your work done in such a way that you get the OK from higher-ups. Entertaining should be done at a charming site.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Improve your talents so that you can become more successful through them. Try to please higher-ups. Make the evening a happy one.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he, or she will be someone who will have depth of understanding and an appetite for knowledge and can combine practical activity with mental ingenuity. Teach to be more broad-minded and not build up any foolish prejudices.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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V.W. prepares to help modernise East Germany's automobile industry

BONN (R) — The West German car giant Volkswagen (V.W.) is preparing to help modernise East Germany's automobile industry in a project seen here as having political significance for relations between the two states.

Volkswagen announced a basic agreement earlier this month with East Berlin for the transfer of 100 types of its cars to East Germany in a deal worth around 600 million marks (\$218 million).

For V.W., set up nearly 50 years ago and a driving force behind West Germany's postwar economic "miracle", it would be the first such agreement with a Soviet Bloc country.

The Bonn government and Lower Saxony state each own 20 per cent of V.W.

Company spokesman Mr. Ortwin Witzel said he was confident the two sides could reach a final accord as early as this summer.

"We see the project as a sign that East Germany is still interested in maintaining good relations with us," said economic ministry spokesman Mr. Volker Franzen.

Industry sources said the deal would furnish concrete proof that trade ties between Bonn and East Berlin had not been damaged by heightened East-West tension and West Germany's decision last year to station new U.S. medium range nuclear missiles on its territory.

Although West Germany is by far East Berlin's most important Western trading partner, the communist government has given several major automobile industry contracts to non-West German companies. The latest, worth 200 million marks (\$73 million), was signed with French firms Renault and Citroen last month.

Deal reflects business

Bonn government officials warned against overestimating the political importance of East Germany's decision on V.W.

They said it primarily reflected economic considerations such as East Berlin's long trade links with V.W. and a better offer from the West German firm than rivals, and that political factors were secondary.

"East Germany always goes

hard for the economic advantages in its deals. It doesn't hand out gifts," said one source, who declined to be named. But he conceded the East Berlin government had "certainly gnashed its teeth" over the political implications of choosing V.W.

Interest in the deal's political significance had been fuelled by persistent rumours that East Germany was trying to raise a major credit from West Germany in addition to a one billion mark (\$365 million) bank loan approved by Bonn last summer.

But ministry spokesman Mr. Franzen repeated government denials that it had received any further cash requests, formal or otherwise, from East Berlin. Bonn has made improvements in East German attention to human rights the price of further credit.

Politics aside, the V.W. project would have clear economic benefits for both partners, industry sources said.

Under the agreement, due to run until 1993, V.W. will sell East Germany an engine production plant and with it licensing rights for selling the engines within East

Germany.

It will also make a one-off delivery of 2,000 trucks to the East Germans as soon as the final agreement is signed and then supply a further 2,300 trucks annually from 1988 to 1993.

For their part, the East Germans will supply V.W. with 100,000 semi-finished motors a year from the plant from 1988, keeping surplus output for their own industry.

East Germany will tailor final capacity at the plant, which can currently produce just under 300,000 engines a year, to its own needs.

For V.W., the deal would lay the basis for longer-term cooperation with East Germany and open up a new market for its vehicles, V.W. spokesman Mr. Witzel said.

V.W.'s only previous major deal with East Germany was the sale of 10,000 of its highly successful "Gold" cars in 1977 which it hoped would bring further orders.

Agricultural crises darken Pakistan's economic outlook

ISLAMABAD (R) — Agricultural crises which have caused higher food prices and a doubled inflation rate are darkening Pakistan's economic outlook and could raise political problems for President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, according to Western analysts.

Pakistan has seen good harvests and a healthy six per cent annual growth rate since 1977.

But the analysts say a disastrous cotton harvest and a drought threatening the wheat crop are the main factors behind an estimated cut in gross national product from 6.4 per cent to five per cent for the 1983-1984 fiscal year ending in June.

Price rises in three key food items — cooking oil, onions and tea — helped drive up prices so much that inflation is now officially estimated at 10 per cent for this fiscal year compared to 4.5 per cent last year.

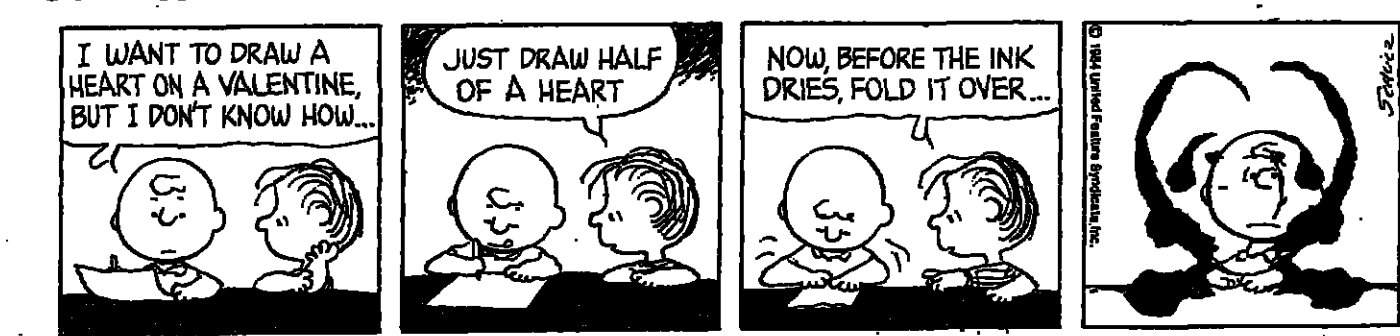
But the real inflation rate is certainly higher, the analysts say, since the cost of living index focuses on low-cost items, including firewood and plastic sandals, while overlooking key expenditures like housing, transport and medical care.

Planning Minister Mahbubul Haq recently told the national economic council that growth in the farm sector would be near zero this fiscal year. The target was 4.9 per cent.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KULCC

STUCO

YELMOP

TRULIA

WHAT THEY SAID THAT SNOBBISH PORCUPINE WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHOKO SWOOP PERMIT TONGUE

Answer: What a man who drinks to forget often forgets—WHEN TO STOP.

THE Daily Crossword by Judson G. Trent

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1 Cheering words

5 Verve

9 Debt

13 Thanks—!

14 Def

15 Forbidden

16 Marango money

17 Neighborhood

18 Lagoon feature

19 Smooth sailing

20 City near Chicago

22 Blades

24 Ms. Moore

25 Slammer

27 Fine leathers

32 Effect

33 Central

34 part

35 Days of —

36 Poor grade

37 Showed concern

38 Tinty

39 Bronie heroine

40 Phonic

41 Musical acronym

43 Chapel in Rome

45 Rye and raisin

46 Simple shelter

47 Corday's victim

48 Maine lake

52 Scrimize

55 Lodge

56 Like a —

57 Chan phrase

58 Approvals

59 Biblical weed

60 Ogie

61 Big name

62 Middlest title

63 Ore car

DOWN

1 Breathing sound

2 Inter —

3 Western

4 Cheese or jack

5 Escapist

6 — and —

7 Sheltered

8 Stingy

9 Quality of being

10 Old Greek coin

11 Vended

12 Between fa and la

15 Bahman Indian

21 Made out

23 Snigger's catch

25 Yielded

26 Delay

27 See 23d

28 USSR city

29 Old loco-motive adjunct

30 Nymph of hills

31 Percolates

33 Singer

34 Tale of marvels

35 Resounding

41 Airport

42 Ocean precipitate

44 Evicts

45 Native of Wisc.

47 N.Z. aborigine

48 Reminder

49 Bible

50 measure of being

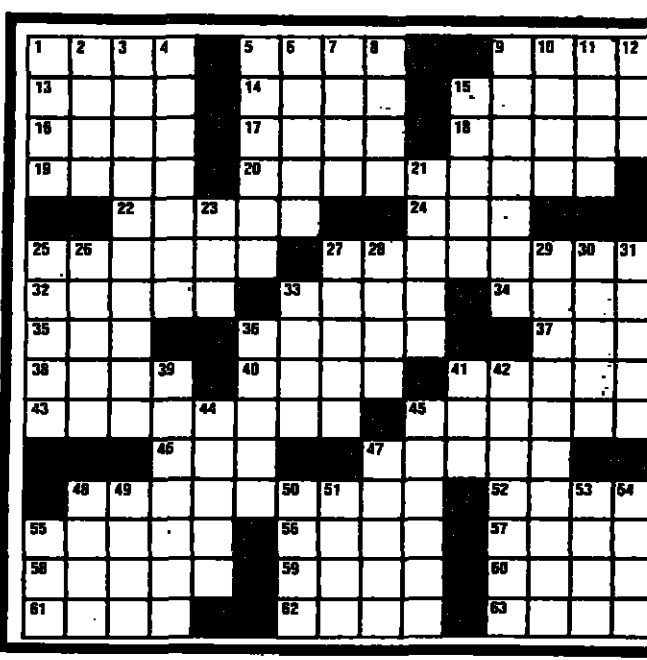
51 Ancient Persian

53 Gulf land

54 Yachting

55 Standard

56 Pat



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World news

Sandinists said to have driven away 2,000 rebels

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua says its troops have killed or pushed back the bulk of a 2,000-man force of Washington-backed rebels that crossed into the country late last year.

Army Field Commander Alonso Porras said Saturday that government troops in the central provinces of Matagalpa and Jinotega had killed 700 members of the right-wing guerrilla force, which invaded between October and December.

During the year the Nicaraguan army had killed nearly 2,000 anti-government guerrillas.

The U.S.-backed rebels are fighting to topple the leftist Sandinist government that took power in a 1979 revolution which ousted former dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Nicaragua moves towards elections

By David Debusmann
Reuter

MANAGUA — In fits and starts, Nicaragua is moving towards elections and the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) is confident of winning.

The date of the poll — for president, vice-president and a 90-member constituent assembly — is to be announced on Tuesday.

"For the Sandinists, the question is not whether they will win but by what margin," a senior Western diplomat in Managua said. "There are some in the FSLN who think a massive victory would be counter-productive, leading to charges of electoral fraud."

The FSLN took power in July 1979 in a broad-based revolution against the right-wing dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

Since then Nicaragua's relations with the United States have deteriorated to the point where Washington now provides arms and finance for some 10,000 right-wing insurgents fighting to remove the Sandinists.

Washington says the Sandinists are running a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship, clinging to power through repression and intimidation. It is a view few of the Reagan administration's European allies share.

"It is clearly in the Sandinists' interests to hold free, democratic elections," a Latin American envoy said. "They would be an excellent way of saying the Americans have been wrong all this time."

But there seems to be less than total unanimity on the electoral process in the nine-member directorate of the FSLN and the institutions it dominates. Apparent internal disputes were spotlighted recently.

Government Junta Co-ordinator Daniel Ortega declared on Feb. 4 that preparations for the elections would go ahead as planned.

That same night, the 51-member Council of State, the country's legislature, issued a statement saying the electoral process would be postponed indefinitely because of new air attacks against Nicaragua.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz promptly described this as "transparent device to back away from elections."

Two days later the Council of State reversed its postponement decision, giving no reason. It said the precise date for the poll would be announced on Feb. 21, the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Sandino who led a prolonged campaign against U.S. occupation forces earlier this century.

Sandinist leaders say periodically the elections could be jeopardized by the fighting with the U.S.-backed forces based in Honduras, Nicaragua's northern neighbour.

The Reagan administration has said the weight of military and economic pressure prompted the Sandinists to make 1985 election year. That date, however, was announced at public rally in Managua on Aug. 23, 1980 — long before Washington started arming the insurgents.

The rebels' relative lack of success — so far they have failed to capture a single town — has heightened fears here that the United States will eventually intervene directly to crush a leftist leadership Washington finds unpalatable.

"With the present set of players, I cannot see any room for conciliation," a Western diplomat said. "U.S. attitudes would change only if the Sandinists lost the elections. That's not very likely."

Sandinist confidence in an electoral victory is based on achievements in health care, education and land redistribution which not even the government's staunchest opponents deny.

They also count on support from the young. While the dreams of early post-Somoza days have faded for many older Nicaraguans, much of the youth is still imbued with revolutionary fervour.

The four opposition parties have followed preparations for the elections with wary scepticism.

Opposition leaders say that four years of almost complete control over the mass media have given the Sandinists an unfair advantage even if they lifted all restrictions on political propaganda once the election campaign gets under way.

Critics of the leadership also complain that by allowing soldiers and militiamen to vote, the Sandinists are securing a powerful voting bloc of around a quarter of a million people.

The majority of the regular army and militia forces are solidly pro-Sandinist though diplomats say the ideological cohesiveness of the armed forces might be eroded by conscription.

Secret deal on Falklands near, says newspaper

LONDON (R) — Britain and Argentina are on the verge of agreeing to normalise relations after their 1982 war over the Falkland Islands, the Observer newspaper reported.

Secret negotiations seemed to be near a breakthrough by the sides were under strong pressure which could prevent agreement, the paper said in a story for Sunday's edition quoting a Foreign Ministry official in Buenos Aires.

Argentine President Raul Alfonsín was quoted in Britain's Daily Mail newspaper Saturday as saying Buenos Aires had accepted some points that Britain wanted to discuss and had raised other points of its own.

The Sunday Times newspaper also reported that Argentina, in a secret memorandum to London, had said it was not insisting its continued claim to sovereignty over the islands should be the first agenda item in talks with Britain.

It said that in the cautiously-worded memorandum, Argentina proposed "global dialogue" in response to a British proposal received on Jan. 26. The British Foreign Office confirmed it had received the reply.

Kabul says 157 rebels killed

NEW DELHI (India AP) — The Moscow-backed government in Afghanistan claimed major successes against rebels Saturday, saying 157 guerrillas were slain and 42 captured in heavy fighting with government forces in four provinces.

Afghan President Babrak Karmal, meanwhile, said Soviet assistance to his rugged landlocked nation would continue at the same level despite the recent leadership change in Moscow.

The official Afghan Radio said the 57-year-old ruler told Moscow Radio in an interview, "friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will certainly continue and there is no power on earth to prevent the strengthening of these ties."

Mr. Karmal, who came to power in December 1979, voiced his "heartfelt gratitude to the Soviet Union for the political, military, technical, economic and cultural assistance extended to us so liberally," the broadcast said.

The bloodiest battles were fought in remote Kapisa province, where 96 insurgents were killed.

Australia's ruling Labour Party, opposition hold by-election seats

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's ruling Labour Party and the opposition retained their seats in three parliamentary by-elections but the results showed a swing of about three per cent against the government.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, whose party easily held the Labour stronghold of Hughes in New South Wales, said Sunday after nearly all the votes had been counted that he was very pleased with the results despite the swing.

The slight shift was well within the normal experience of by-elections in Australia, he told reporters.

But Mr. Hawke, whose popularity rating has been put at more than 70 per cent by a recent poll, added, that the emergence of a new faction within the Labour Party had not helped the results.

A new centre-left moderate grouping, which includes Foreign Minister Bill Hayden and a number of other cabinet ministers, was formally launched Sunday.

The Liberal and National Parties, partners in the federal opposition coalition, retained their two seats though the National Party did not do as well as expected in their former leader Doug Anthony's New South Wales constituency.

The Labour winner easily outpolled the National and Liberal Party candidates in the Richmond seat but the National Party picked up the seat on the distribution of preferences under Australia's complex voting system.

The Liberals retained their stronghold of corangamite in the state of Victoria, which was held for 17 years by former Foreign Minister Tony Street who recently retired from politics.

Opposition Leader Andrew Peacock, who needed a big swing to bolster the coalition's fortunes ahead of an expected election at the end of the year, said the results indicated the government would be beaten at the polls.

"It confirms the pattern of all previous by-elections since last March — on each occasion there has been a swing against the government," he told reporters.

The Labour Party won a 23-year majority in the 125-seat Lower House in a crushing victory over the Conservative coalition in the general elections last March.

For the State Department of corrections confirmed that Mr. Yanikian, 38, had been released from the California medical facility at Vacaville on Jan. 31. The spokeswoman, who declined to be identified, did not provide any explanation for the release.

The Turkish announcement noted that Mr. Yanikian was not "even to young" when he shot and killed Mehmet Baydar, Turkish consul-general and Bahadir Demir, vice consul-general.

Mr. Yanikian admitted the killings, adding he was revenging the massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks, the government spokesman said.

The statement asserted that Mr. Yanikian's old age should not be an excuse for his release.

The killings in 1973 marked the beginning of a large scale Armenian campaign against Turkish diplomats which left 28 diplomats dead and damaged Turkish interests throughout the world.

Armenian militants claim to be avenging the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turks early this century. Turkey denies such massacres took place.

Mr. Laurel said his party's decision to jump into the election fray was conditional.

"We have the right to review or reverse our decision if there are no guarantees for clean and honest elections," he said.

Mr. Laurel said he was certain to get far more public and official attention in the United States because of the publicity that followed his arrest.

"If the U.S. stops supporting Marcos I think we will be able to handle him," said Mr. Laurel. "In a free election we will topple the government even without American support."

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Turkey condemns release of Armenian

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey condemned Saturday the release of Gourgen Yanikian, an Armenian who was convicted of killing two Turkish diplomats in Los Angeles 11 years ago.

"We have learned with regret that the Armenian terrorist is released on Jan. 31," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The statement did not say how word was obtained of Mr. Yanikian's release, but said that old age and weak health were mentioned as grounds for his parole.

In California, a spokeswoman for the State Department of corrections confirmed that Mr. Yanikian, 38, had been released from the California medical facility at Vacaville on Jan. 31. The spokeswoman, who declined to be identified, did not provide any explanation for the release.

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Filipino opposition leader flies to U.S.

MANILA (R) — Philippine opposition leader Salvador Laurel, who spent Friday night in jail after a pistol was found in his luggage, flew to the United States Sunday and said he would ask leaders there to stop supporting President Ferdinand Marcos.

Mr. Laurel's first stop is San Francisco. He will also visit New York, Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles.

"I think the U.S. should keep a distance from the Marcos regime because people hate the regime and it will contain the U.S. government," he told reporters at the airport.

Mr. Laurel's departure was delayed by two days after he was arrested at Manila Airport on Friday afternoon and charged with illegal possession of firearm.

The government said a gold-plated 9mm Luger was found in his luggage. Mr. Laurel, a former senator, spent Friday night in jail but the case against him was dismissed Saturday.

The incident attracted international publicity and embarrassed the Marcos government.

Mr. Laurel, president of the United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO), said the pistol had been planted in his luggage.

Unlike other opposition groups, UNIDO has decided to take part in parliamentary elections in May and Mr. Laurel Sunday predicted outright victory for his party.

"In the May elections, we are confident of winning 60 to 70 per cent of the seats if the elections are honest and clean," he said.

Before going to the airport Mr. Laurel and his actress-wife, Celia, visited the jail and distributed candy and cigarettes to the inmates and guards.

Mr. Laurel, a close friend of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, is due to give a series of lectures in the United States to commemorate Mr. Aquino and to meet congressional leaders including Senator Edward Kennedy and State Department officials.

Commentators said he was certain to get far more public and official attention in the United States because of the publicity that followed his arrest.

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China has 150,000 lepers

PEKING (R) — China over the past 30 years has reduced the number of its lepers from a half-million to the present 150,000, Dr. George Hatem, a medical adviser to the country, said. China will also for the first time send a team to the 12th International Leprosy Congress which begins next week in New Delhi, he said as quoted by the China Daily.

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California passes Gay rights bill

SACRAMENTO (R) — After four failures in the past eight years, a homosexual rights bill was passed by the state legislature of California, which has a large and politically influential "Gay" community. The state senate voted for the bill 22-16, despite impassioned denunciations by critics.

One senator, Bill Richardson, quoted passages from the Bible saying homosexuality was "an abomination and its practitioners 'will surely be put to death.'" The bill, which was previously approved by the lower house and now goes to Governor George Deukmejian for consideration, outlaws discrimination against homosexuals in housing and employment.

Tory jokers give Kinnock low points

LONDON (R) — When opposition Labour Leader Neil Kinnock jauntily compared the success of his recent visit to the United States to that of Britain's Olympic champions, Conservative Members of Parliament decided to bring him down a peg or two.

Evoking the high marks from Olympic judges for the British pair Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, Mr. Kinnock told reporters that the trip had scored "5.9 out of six on all counts." But in parliament Friday, as Mr. Kinnock rose for one of his verbal jousts with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, members of her Conservative Party suddenly held up placards reading 0.1, 0.1, 0.1 along the length of the chamber.

Mr. Kinnock fell about laughing and parliament was soon in uproar. Speaker Bernard Weatherill called for order 11 times before the rumpus died down.

Singer indicted for tax evasion

MEMPHIS — Singer Jerry Lee Lewis, whose records once outsold those of Elvis Presley, has been indicted on charges of evading nearly \$1 million in taxes. An indictment returned by a federal grand jury alleges that Lewis avoided tax payments concealing assets. His bill was put at \$994,000. A U.S. district judge issued a warrant for the singer's arrest and set a \$100,000, citing Lewis' drink and drug problems and his "defiant attitude" as grounds for the size of the bond.

Religious bias made illegal in Greece

ATHENS (R) — The Greek parliament approved a criminal law reform that makes it illegal to stir up hatred or discrimination on grounds of religion. Several newspapers have criticised the reform, some on grounds that it will impede the "anti-Zionist struggle" others because fringe cults will now be allowed to operate more freely. Conservative deputies attacked the Socialist government for dropping plans to abolish or modify the law that sets prison terms for people who speak insultingly about top members of the government. In a highly publicised case last year, a taxi-driver was given 10 months' jail for comparing Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu to Libyan Leader Muammar Qaddafi. He was taken to court by his passengers, who were government supporters. Justice Minister George Mangakis said this would be dealt with by a new press censorship law that was still under discussion.

U.S.-Soviet talks on nuclear non-proliferation adjourned

VIENNA (AP) — Soviet and U.S. delegates on Saturday adjourned deliberations on how to restrict nuclear arms to those countries already possessing them and American officials said the two sides made progress, without disclosing details.

The three-day nuclear non-proliferation talks were believed to be the first bilateral consultations between the superpowers since the change in Soviet leadership Feb. 13.

Private contacts on arms-related issues between Moscow and Washington have become rare since the Soviets suspended nuclear talks with the United States late last year.

"We made progress," Richard Kennedy, ambassador-at-large for nuclear affairs from the U.S. State Department, told the Associated Press.

Another American official, speaking privately, said the meeting — the third on non-proliferation between the superpowers — was never directly jeopardised by East-West tensions. But, he conceded the chill was felt here.

"The talks covered the complete spectrum of non-proliferation questions," said Mr. Kennedy. They dealt primarily with strengthening the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguard system, created to stop the spread of countries with nuclear weapons, he said.

showed Mr. Mondale leading him by 49 to 20 per cent, with Senators Gary Hart and Alan Cranston and ex-Senator George McGovern at six. The three others trailed.

For all his work, there is little sign Sen. Glenn will gain much in a new poll due Monday, although Mr. Hart and Mr. McGovern might.

"We certainly don't have the passion that we had in 1980, when we had an incumbent president of our party (Jimmy Carter) being challenged by Kennedy (Edward)," says Barry Platt, spokesman for the State Democratic Organisation that is host for Monday night's Iowa precinct caucuses.

"Then the mood was 'you're either for us or against us.' Now, the Democrats have eight candidates to pick from. You can be for Mondale or Hart or Cranston and the rest understand."

The result is that some political professionals fear the vote turnout on Monday may be very low — perhaps even fewer than the 45,000 that started the then-obscure Carter on his way to the Democratic nomination and the presidency in 1976.

It is not just that Iowans are thinly populated and different in terms of jobs and race from the average American state.

It seems Iowa Democrats do not seem to care much that, after a year of being wooed by eight of their party's presidential contenders and months of media attention, they are about to select their president and months of media attention, they are about to select their president.

"Iowa is a passionless campaign," complains Herb Hadden, an aide to Ohio Senator John Glenn. Sen. Glenn has spent countless days here trying to persuade voters he is more deserving of the Democratic nomination than front-runner Walter Mondale.

The last Iowa poll in January,

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9852 ♣ KJ106 ♦ 6 ♠ K1087
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 NT Pass
What action do you take?
A. — It is a close decision. Even though your side has at least 26 points combined, the fact that you have a singleton in partner's suit means that you might not have a ready source of tricks. However, you possess a lot of intermediate cards, and that is just enough to swing things in favor of bidding three no trump.

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♥ Q10652 ♦ J92 ♠ 843
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?
A. — If you elected to pass, you have little regard for money — over tricks, vulnerable and worth 200 apiece! You can't guarantee that your side can defeat one heart. Also, you can't bid one no trump, that is a forward going action. Partner has asked you to bid your longest suit, so oblige by bidding two clubs.

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J7 ♥ KJ872 ♦ K7 ♠ J873
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A. — Your double fit makes your hand worth more than its counts, but even so, game is doubtful. When not vulnerable, it is usually correct to be cautious; vulnerable, the rewards for closing out the rubber are so great that it pays to be adventurous. At this vulnerability, pass.

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AKQ10953 ♥ 7 ♦ A72 ♠ 95
What is your opening bid?
A. — We know many players who would open four spades with this holding. That is a pre-emptive bid, but the person you are most likely preempting out of the auction is your partner. It is bad tactics to open preemptively on a hand that contains two aces, because it is very difficult for partner to judge what to do. Open one spade.

Q.5 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 7 ♥ 953 ♦ Q1073 ♠ KQ952
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
3 ♦ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A. — It is time for vigorous action. What has happened to the spade suit, and where is all the strength? It is obvious that West is waiting to get into the act, so you should make it as difficult for him as you can. Jump to five diamonds. On a good day West might think that you are strong and that his partner is broke, and so take no action at all.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K7 ♥ AKQ93 ♦ AQ8 ♠ KJ6
What is your opening bid?
A. — With 22 points and a balanced hand, your natural opening bid is two no trump, so why not make it? The fact that you have a five-card major suit should not stop you. Don't open two hearts — you are about a king shy for that action.

Paisner - Qudus M. Ali Qudus h
How much years ago